Minutes of the VOTF Board of Trustees Meeting

March 15, 2024

Meeting was held virtually.

Trustees Present: Svea Fraser, John Salvati, Brad Pritts, Margaret Roylance, Mary Pat Fox

Staff: Leslie Scales

Opening Prayer – Margaret began the meeting with the VOTF Synod prayer.

The meeting minutes for February 16, 2024 meeting were approved as amended.

1. Current Financial Report – John Salvati, Leslie Scales
    a. John discussed restricted versus unrestricted funds. We have $6K to support Women's Voices and $4K to support Protection of Children. The $6K has been committed to support a video by Sebastian Gomes in partnership with Discerning Deacons and the $4K will be spent to complete the second POC report. All remaining funds should be unrestricted.
    b. John said that we will definitely need a new auditor next year, although Mr. Scullin will do our 990s before he leaves.
    c. Leslie said everything was in place for the audit, although this had been our understanding in the past and new requests had arisen. As a proponent of financial transparency, VOTF should have our audit posted to our website in a timely fashion. The Board agreed that the audit should be posted by the end of May.

2. Executive Director's Report – Leslie Scales
    a. Leslie reported that the VOTF funds in Eastern Bank have not been moved yet, although we requested it weeks ago. She and John are meeting every other week with Liz and we are publishing *In the Vineyard* twice a month with Siobhan's assistance. Leslie reported that VOTF will move to Ring for our phone system next week and that the Spring Newsletter is almost ready to go. The Board discussed the importance of sending the Newsletter out as soon as possible and following it quickly with an appeal for donations. Leslie updated the Board on hiring an administrative assistant.
    b. POC: Leslie indicated that the POC report was on schedule for a pre-April release. Margaret said that Gerry Early of CARA had offered to feature it in their summer issue. Pat Gomez had shared that Teresa Kettelkamp has been named Adjunct Secretary of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors. She has been a strong advocate for children and will strengthen the Commission in her new role.

c. FWG: The letter to the dioceses announcing the 2024 Governance and Financial Transparency Reviews was finally sent out last week and the Governance review is beginning today, March 15th. Margaret provided an update on the review and mentioned the possibility of updating the Primer on church structures. She agreed to send the 2003 version to members of the Board for their review. She also provided a verbal report on her networking at the 2024 Roundtable Partnership Summit in Washington D.C. She recommended reaching out to some of those contacts as part of our development efforts. Brad recommended reaching out to some of them as advisors as well.
d. Emerging Voices: Svea reported on our outreach to Tricia Bruce in response to the attach of her and VOTF by Bill Donohue from his platform of the so-called "Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights." She plans a Zoom with Tricia on April 16th. The Board agreed that she would be a great adviser to VOTF. Svea reported that multiple connections with our partners such as Discerning Deacons and AUSCP are building bridges between priests and laity, between men and women, etc. Synodality is catalyzing many positive interactions and VOTF has an important role to play in this moment in church history.

3. Other Business
   a. Consideration of recognition for Nick and other volunteers at a staff lunch.
   b. Opportunities for Synodal activities in collaboration with our partners. Excellent Zoom last evening March 14th and another coming up on March 20th.
   c. AUSCP meeting in Lexington KY in June. Brad and Donna will attend and VOTF will sponsor a table.
   d. Ideas for Synodal activities during 2024. Might consider how the church has changed since 2002 and how it may change in the furture.

NEXT SCHEDULED FULL BOARD MEETING:
Friday, April 19, 2024

The meeting was closed with a "Glory be."