

VOICE OF THE FAITHFUL

Board of Trustees

June 17, 2019

Attending: Mary Pat Fox, Pat Gomez, Mike Ryan, Larry Mulligan. Excused: Anne Southwood, Margaret Roylance. Also attending, Executive Director Donna B. Doucette.

Prayer: Larry read a prayer in thanksgiving for God's blessings by Sr. Megan McElroy, O.P.

Minutes: The draft of the minutes of the May 20, 2019 meeting, previously circulated, was approved. It was also agreed that the minutes of today's meeting, the last until September, would be submitted promptly to all for comment and voted upon electronically.

Finance: The proposed budget for fiscal year 2020 was, after extensive discussion, approved.

Donna noted that while the ambitious revenue figure is aspirational, the expense numbers are fixed such that approval of the board will be necessary before they can be exceeded.

Mike raised a question concerning how the IT expense figures were calculated. Donna explained that the two salaried employees' compensation is divided using federal form 990 categories, including IT, pursuant to prearranged percentages listed on an "allocation page" which has been in use for some time.

Executive Director's Report: Donna made two additions to her written report. First, attendance at the September 22nd through 29th, 2019 conference of the International Church Reform Network near Warsaw, Poland. Margaret has attended such gatherings in the past but is unlikely to be able to do so this time. Pat noted that VOTF is shown on the ICRN website as a participant. Mary Pat will look at the material concerning the conference and her schedule to see if she is available and should attend. Second, Donna confirmed that the contract for auditing services has been signed and that the cost is the same as this fiscal year's expense.

Financial Working Group: Joe Finn has offered to donate the cost of an intern to focus on the bishops' failure to allow Diocesan Finance Councils to function as intended. The intern is already working. The fact that DFCs can be transparent but not accountable will be a focus. The survey work for 2019 is now in the process of being reviewed, and the group has a meeting scheduled to go over them.

Protection of Children Working Group: Pat reported on the progress in recruiting the members of the group, including the three non-board members and the skills they bring to the project. A poll is in progress to schedule the group's first meeting later this month, which will lay out the plan to survey all dioceses of the United States concerning the status of their child protection and safe environment efforts. Currently, the plan is to see what each diocese instructs congregants on when and how to report, how to make a complaint, how easy such information is available on the diocese's website and when it is mandatory to report to civil authorities.

2019 Conference: Attendees are registered and, with guests, will total approximately 100.

There was considerable discussion of Justice Burke's suggestion that we include the program of the Chicago Children's Advocacy Center as a part of her presentation. It has many advantages in her estimation, with an example being that the child is only interviewed once in the process of the investigation of the alleged abuse. Mary Pat and Donna will follow up.

Volunteers: Donna explained the process when a longtime volunteer retires in light of Pat Merlo's planned departure. All agreed that due note should be made of such person's contribution, with the details left to the discretion of the Executive Director.

Next Meeting: Unless a special meeting is called, September 16, 2019.

Closing Prayer: A recitation of the Glory Be by all.