

Voice of the Faithful

Board of Trustees

October 20, 2019

Newton, MA

Present: Mary Pat Fox, Anne Southwood, Margaret Roylance, Pat Gomez, Mike Ryan and Larry Mulligan. Also present: Donna Doucette, Ethel and Chris Doyle.

Prayer: Pat prayed extemporaneously, emphasizing our gratitude for the success of yesterday's conference.

Minutes: The previously circulated minutes of the trustees' meeting of September 16, 2019 were approved.

Creating A Just Church Conference: Mary Pat gave an overview of a very successful undertaking, and gave much credit to Ethel's careful, efficient and calm organization. In large part due to the speakers' generosity (no stipends), the excess of costs over registration fees and donations will likely be less than \$9,000 when the final figures are tabulated. All agreed that is money well spent in advancing our mission, and that we should plan another such gathering in 2020. Mary Pat asked that we consider what its theme should be.

Mary Pat made a motion to thank all the staff, Donna, Nick and all the volunteers, for all the hard work which made the conference such a success which was seconded and passed unanimously.

Healing Circles: Mary Pat reported on meeting with Jayne and Bill. A "tool kit" will be prepared with a "where are you" on the anger-healing spectrum introduction, which will put all we do, from listening sessions to lay-led prayer services to action programs and the Broken Vessels Healing Circles in a package for the website.

Nominations: The fact that four trustees will be termed out at the end of May 2020 based on our current bylaws, as well as several prospects who are or may be willing to serve was discussed, along with plans to follow up before that time.

Fundraising: Note was made of the earlier shift in the organization from affiliate based to membership based, and that something similar is now occurring to our source of funds, from member donations to major gifts and grants.

After a report about various “orphaned” restricted funds made for specific purposes which are no longer active, and in response to a request from the auditor to address their transfer (see attachment), a motion was made by Margaret and seconded by Mike to move the orphaned funds into the general fund where they can continue to meet the purposes for which they were donated. The motion was approved unanimously.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 18, 2019, 7 p.m., EST.

Adjournment: The meeting closed with recitation of the Glory Be.

Attachment:

Background

Funds collected by individual “platforms” when Dan Bartley was president were designed to carry out those platform’s campaigns and for other related uses. During that time, some campaigns were completed without expending all the funds. As a result, we were left with \$9,973.66 in restricted funds for which there is no formal program.

Of this, 85% is for “universal church reform”; 14% for “local action; and 1% for Child Protection and Survivor Support. These all align with programs we currently are conducting, although we long ago ended the particular campaigns with those platform names. The auditor has asked us to resolve the issue.

We can:

1. Move all of the funds into general operations. When the various platform groups issued donation appeals, they both identified a specific program and included phrasing about “and related programs.”
2. Divide the funds equally among the Clericalism, FWG, POC projects now under way and the Healing Circles.