

**Minutes (Final)**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting (at VOTF office and teleconference)**  
**Voice of the Faithful, Inc.**  
**November 23, 2010, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Eastern**

**Board Members Present:** Elia Marnik (presiding and VOTF office), Bill Casey (not on call), Pat Gomez (phone), Ron DuBois (phone), Ed Wilson (phone), Mary Pat Fox (phone), John Hushon (not on call) Jayne O'Donnell (not on call), Dan Bartley (phone) Mary Freeman (office) and Mark Mullaney (phone)

**Officers Present:** Janet Hauter (phone), Kevin Connor (phone), and Nick Mazza (phone)

**Executive Director:** Donna Doucette (office), Julie Dutcher (Development and office).

**Opening Prayer:** Donna – Thanksgiving Prayer

**Administrative Matters:** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved the consent agenda items and minutes to the face-to-face meeting ending on October 31, 2010 by a vote of 8 yeas- 0 no- 3 absent).

**Finances:** Treasurer Kevin Connors reported that our financial position continues to be in the ADEQUATE category. Every effort is in place to eventually bring us into the SAFE category. There was hope expressed that the traditional Christmas mailing would continue to bring in solid revenues. Julie continues to solicit major donors and an upcoming acquisition mailing in planned.

**Development Committee Report:** Julie Dutcher, Development Coordinator, and Donna Doucette, Executive Director, provided statistics showing a pattern of positive results in the development program. There is an increase in the number of donors and those who have given more than \$500. Of the 1,736 total donors through November 17, 2010, 909 donors had given more than once and we have approximately 72 new donors this year. We also have 276 dues paying individuals thus far.

**The Emily and Rosemary Fund:** Mary Freeman reported that 12 applications were received this year and of these two awards will be made. In order for the monetary awards to be granted, the Board is required to approve. The Board of Trustees reviewed the report and considered the recommendations of the committee regarding the financial awards to be granted. As a result, the following resolution was presented for a vote.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approve the monetary award of \$10,000 each for the two individual candidates approved by the Fund committee. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved the awarding of the monetary grants by a vote of 8 yeas, 0 no's and 3 absent.

Mary Freeman mentioned that the committee would notify those awarded and that letters would be sent out to these two individuals. Press release will be sent out as well. No applications have been received for next year.

Following is the full report read by Mary Freeman at the meeting:

**Emily & Rosemary Fund Report**

We received 12 applications. The decisions to reject and accept were all unanimous.

10 were rejected because they did not meet the criteria:

- 1. to support women in financial need who have lost church employment as a result of discrimination or other injustices;**
- 2. to financially support women who are working on projects / programs designed to advance the equality of women in the Church.**

The 2 that were agreed upon were Carolyn Johnson and Karen DeFilippis. The proposed grant to each is \$10K.

Carolyn holds an Ed.D. from Columbia ('09) Her dissertation explored the skills, perspectives, and spiritual practices of women in pioneering leadership positions in the church. She was hired as Assistant Dean in Fordham's School of Religion in '10. The hiring process is notoriously difficult, particularly toward women. After three months of verbal abuse and discrimination she filed a complaint with the EEO office at Fordham. A week later she was fired by phone and has yet to receive her personal belongings. This week her attorney is filing an EEOC complaint. She needs the money for legal fees.

Karen worked in the Diocese of Ft. Worth for 25 years and for 15 years as a Pastoral Associate in a Texas parish started by 2 religious sisters. They had a sacramental priest on weekends and for marriages and funerals. Recently the bishop assigned a priest from another country and the sisters chose to go elsewhere. After the priest learned the ropes, he dismissed Karen with no severance or unemployment compensation. She speaks in other parishes but has decided to pursue an MSW to be more marketable. This grant will help pay her tuition

Next steps: Letters will be sent to all applicants with a closing statement that is particular to each person. Checks will be included where approved. A member of the committee will check in with the recipients in three months to follow up on the situation.

We have no applicants yet for the next round. The closing date for applications is 12/1/10.

**Trustee Nominations and Advisory Council Report:** Ron DuBois presented the report for the committee. It was reported that the Advisory Council Charter was completed. The Council will be an advisory body in nature with 5-9 members who would report to the Chair or her representative on a routine basis. The next step will be to make contact with prospective candidates and to send them a copy of the Charter. Approval of the Council is required. As a result, the following resolution was made.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approved the Charter for the Advisory Council and the qualification for candidacy. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved the Advisory Council Charter and the standards for selection by a vote of 8 yeas- 0 no- 3 absent).

**Leadership Reports:** President Dan Bartley reported that the Officer's Strategic Committee is on hold since the officers need more time to devote to the development of a working document. Some resolution on this effort will come during the first quarter of 2011. This topic will be further discussed in a future Board meeting.

Priest's Initiative is moving forward despite the break-up of the team in November. Ed Wilson will try to convene interested parties in the new year.

**Executive Director's Report:** Donna Doucette, Executive Director, will be preparing a year end summary to be published in the new year.

**Other Business:** Discussion took place on the site of the next face-to-face meeting of the Board. There were two options presented. One was to meet again in Wellesley MA in April and the other was to skip Wellesley and to convene during the weekend of the ACC meeting in June. It was decided to meet in early April in Wellesley.

Finally, further discussion took place on the need to survey our membership concerning both controversial issues within the church as well as practical feedback on our program successes. This effort will continue under the leadership of Mary Pat Fox and a committee of some officers and the Board. The committee will report back once a clear survey is developed.

*Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm (8-0-3 absent). The next scheduled Board meeting is set for Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 7:00 PM EST.*

*Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board accepted the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting by a vote of (8-0-3 absent).*