

MINUTES – Draft
Voice of the Faithful, Inc.
Board of Trustees Meeting, October 20, 2015

Board Members Present: Mike Ryan, Margaret Roylance

Present via Conference Call: Mark Mullaney, Larry Mulligan, Mary Freeman, Mary Pat Fox and David O'Brien

Board Members Absent: Philip Megna and Anne Southwood

Others Present: Priscilla Deck (Dev. Dir.) and Donna Doucette (Exec. Director)

President Mark Mullaney called the meeting to order. He then asked Larry Mulligan to begin the meeting with a prayer. Larry offered a prayer entitled "One Family" from the Michigan affiliate.

The minutes of the September meeting were reviewed and approved.

Finance Report

Treasurer Anne Southwood was unable to attend, so no separate Financial Report was provided. Donna, Priscilla, and Mark all addressed the VOTF financial situation in their respective comments. Donna said that income was low in September, but indicated that October will be much better. Mark reiterated the need for 5 to 6 months in reserve. Priscilla made it clear that efforts to reach out to major donors would be key in providing such a financial cushion.

Executive Director's Report

Donna Doucette presented the Executive Director's report, which she had sent to the trustees by e-mail before the meeting. The Healing Circles initiative is quite active at present, with a Circle planned for Hartford CT on November 7th. In addition, a Circle is planned in Virginia and Philadelphia has asked to host another. Donna reported that there are no plans, at this time, for a VOTF event related to the Boston premiere of the "Spotlight" film but efforts continue to arrange a fund raising event to be associated with the opening of the film.

Development Report

Priscilla Deck presented her initial Development Report although she was unable to complete her presentation in the available time. She pointed out that change in the Church must come from its members and will not occur solely through the efforts of Pope Francis or through any actions of the hierarchy. This makes the role of VOTF highly relevant to efforts to change the Church, and engaging our members through our development efforts is essential to our success.

She discussed the importance of cultivating major donors. Since 15 contacts with a potential major donor are generally required before a solid relationship with the donor is established, this must be a long-term effort. She said that support from monthly donors is also critical to our financial efforts and that we are focusing on two doable projects: Healing Circles and Diocese Financial Accountability, areas for which our members have repeatedly expressed their support. In addition to reaching out to our members for continued support, Priscilla plans to have a couple

of grants submitted for funding before the end of the calendar year. There was no time to discuss the details further.

Discussion of the Status of the VOTF Initiative on Married Priests

Dave O'Brien reported that he had sent a letter to the Pope and to 55 college presidents on this subject and that he heard back from 24/25 of the presidents. Before Dave joined the Board, Ron DuBois, Mary Freeman, and Ed Greenan had worked together on a project to support the ordination of married priests. The extensive results of that effort are documented on the VOTF website, but there has been little activity on the part of our members since then.

Since Dave is very interested in this area, he, Mark and Larry agreed to find an opportunity to discuss plans to continue the project. Mary reminded the Board that we had voted at our last face-to-face meeting at the Hartford Assembly to commit VOTF resources to Healing Circles and Diocesan Financial Accountability, and we should bear that decision in mind before investing significant organizational resources in any new initiatives.

Other Business

VOTF received a request to join a group who would like to plan a Jubilee Year Pilgrimage and a 2018 Worldwide People's Synod. The Board voted unanimously not to join in this venture because VOTF has projects to which we have our staff and funds committed.

Mark reported that he plans to accompany Jayne and Priscilla in a visit to New York City to meet with a major donor.

In an effort to reduce our audit costs, Mark has selected a new auditor, Alfonso Pirello, CPA.

Mary Pat Fox will be speaking to the Delmarva affiliate and asked for suggestions of topics that the Board would suggest.

Our next Board will next meet face to face on Friday evening November 13th and Saturday November 14th all day at the Wellesley Country Club in Wellesley MA.

The meeting concluded at 8:24 PM with a prayer.