

## **Voice of the Faithful**

### **Board of Trustees**

**April 19, 2021**

Attending: Mary Pat Fox (presiding), Pat Gomez, Elia Marnik, Margaret Roylance, Michael P. Marnik, Joe Finn and Donna Doucette, Executive Director.

The meeting was called to order by Mary Pat Fox, President, at 7:00 p.m.

An opening prayer, Hail Mary, was said by the group.

Upon motion made and seconded, it was unanimously  
Voted: approve the minutes of the meeting of March 15, 2021.

Executive Director Report. Donna Doucette submitted a written report in advance of the meeting and solicited questions of the Trustees.

The POC mini-synod was a significant success. Although there was a sizeable registration for the event, registrants from California and Canada did not attend. Three breakout sessions were formed; participants each had the opportunity to address pre-set questions or bring up related child abuse prevention topics. Scribes captured those discussions and brought them to the large gathering after 45 minutes of small-group discussions. Action items presented: initiative to highlight April as Abuse Prevention Month in parishes with examples of bulletin announcements. One attendee was inspired to go to his diocesan group and get the group to contact the bishop with information on how to improve the accountability and transparency of the website on child protection. The POC working group is deep into the worksheet evaluations, and they are not sure when they will offer a repeat of the synod. But it is certainly worth following up.

The Emerging Voices (women's roles) working group has met several times. The working group has also brought in a number of non-VOTF members as an Advocacy Network, that is part of a larger network on women's issues. It has strong collaborative elements.

The Women's project involves significant collaboration with Phyllis Zagano and her network, with a group of people developing a "Discerning Deacons" project, and with FutureChurch and AUSCP people. The focus is on educating as many as possible about what deacons do and that there were ordained women deacons in the Church.

VOTF is now listed in the Official Catholic Directory, by virtue of purchasing one of their "ad listings." (VOTF applied to be approved for this listing.)

2021 Conference Update:

Mary Pat Fox reported. Decisions are being made on the registration process. A draft conference agenda was provided to the board trustees.

A Financial Report was provided by Joe Finn and Donna Doucette. Joe Finn continues to work on generating revenue for the organization and described his various efforts.

Protection of Children Working Group Update. Pat Gomez submitted a written report in advance of the meeting. The main POC website Review Study began in March 2021, will continue through April, and end on May 31, 2021. Analysis is planned for June 2021.

Governance Review Update. The Governance mini-synod slated for May has 23 registrants already, and that does not yet include all of the working group people who expect to participate, Margaret Roylance reported. A mini-synod is still planned for May 15, 2021. Still looking for a second reviewer.

There was no new business to come before the meeting.

At 8:06 p.m. the meeting was adjourned with a prayer, the Glory Be, followed by the allowance of a motion to adjourn, duly made and seconded.

Next scheduled meeting: May 17, 2021.