

Minutes of VOTF Board of Trustee Meeting

Face to Face, Wellesley, MA

April 21 & 22, 2017

In Attendance, 04-21: Mary Pat Fox, Margaret Roylance, Michael Ryan and Mark Mullaney at the Wellesley Country Club, along with Donna B. Doucette and Alice Campanella, and on audio call were Anne Southwood, Sandra Guynn and Larry Mulligan. On 04-22: in addition to the foregoing, with Anne Southwood now at the WCC, and Phil Megna by phone for the morning session.

Mary Pat opened the meeting with a prayer.

Following opening remarks by Mary Pat, the agenda for the meeting was addressed, and it was agreed to move the discussion of the 2018 budget to the following day. The minutes for the meetings of February 21, 2017, and March 21, 2017, were approved after minor corrections.

Jayne O'Donnell expanded on the 04-21-17 update report of Broken Vessels to the board with respect to the 10 Healing Circles conducted to date as well as those scheduled and in the process of being scheduled in the future. A wide ranging discussion resulted, including VOTF's commitment and other potential funding sources for the program.

Anne's treasurer financial report was accepted after her remarks noting that while the recent legacy gift has us in an acceptable position for now, she is concerned about declining revenues, particularly those from monthly donors.

Financial matters continued as the focus of discussion for the Executive Director's report. Donna noted the need for a national conference or other device to raise donations to give major donors a break from the recent special appeals, and to encourage monthly giving. Hartford was discussed as a potential site for a conference, similar to the successful gathering in 2015.

The meeting then adjourned for the evening.

On April 22nd, Margaret gave the opening prayer.

The 2018 budget issues were addressed at some length. Donna explained there was a zero increase in the reduced expenses arrived at the October meeting. For fiscal 2018 (June 1, 2017, through May 31, 2018), expenses are projected at \$288,105 and potential revenue left at the same projected level of FY17.

The impact of the several crashes of the website and the potential responsibility and need to explore means to avoid them in the future raised many issues. Mary Pat observed that as we transition from an affiliate-based organization to one that is "virtually" based, our website is, effectively, our "identity." Donna explained that there are between 75,000 and 100,000 files on the site, with an unknown number of pages in each of the files, so that moving to a new vendor would be a challenge, even though she has lost confidence in our current host. Sandra agreed to provide some information concerning a good hosting company, and Mary Pat will check with Future Church and SNAP as to how they have fared with recent hacking problems. The draft

budget to be submitted at the May 16th meeting will be tweaked after figuring how much it would cost to stay with the current host or move to a new one.

Mary Pat asked how we determine raising the funds needed for fiscal 2018. Donna said this is at least partially addressed in the solicitation report. We rely primarily on quarterly appeals and email fundraising. Mary Pat will put together an understanding for how to reach the appropriate revenue for the next meeting.

Following a break, Larry addressed VOTF's relationship with COR, noting it has lessened significantly and did not appear sustainable if COR requirements (representation at least once per year at COR meetings and annual reports of activities) were enforced. Margaret and Donna noted our involvement with Future Church and the AUSCP, such as the upcoming conference in June. As no formal change appears necessary at this time, and there is a possibility that a future trustee may be interested in reviving the relationship, no change was proposed or adopted.

Phil provided a written proposal to support Pope Francis, suggesting a March 2018 end date as a way to observe his fifth anniversary of election. Phil and Mike will present a specific proposal for the board's consideration.

Margaret addressed the financial accountability working group's efforts to rank dioceses using the worksheet the group has prepared to measure their transparency in disclosing financial data. The group will meet again on May 6th to prepare a final template to use in the evaluation process and will then focus on three dioceses (Hartford, Orlando and Los Angeles) in an initial effort.

Following a break for lunch, a lengthy discussion was held about the transition of VOTF from an affiliate-based organization to one based on its "virtual connection" to interested persons. Mary Pat suggested our direction should be to become as easy as possible to engage for those who are interested in our goals. Various means now in place to develop this, and we will continue to evolve to do it effectively. So that the work of the many affiliates is not lost, having a special place on the website may be possible.

Vacancies on the board, and possible candidates to fill them were addressed. Sandra suggested that changes in the bylaws should precede new additions. Mike Ryan, whose initial term is expiring, agreed to serve a second three-year term.

For assignments, Sandra will spearhead bylaw amendments with Mary Pat and Larry, Anne and Mark will serve on the audit committee, and Anne will chair a nominations committee.

The meeting was adjourned.