

Voice of the Faithful

Board of Trustees

January 18, 2021

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

The meeting was called to order by Mary Pat Fox, President at 7:05 p.m.

An opening prayer was given by Michael Marnik, a reflection from Pedro Arrupe, SJ, entitled Falling in Love with God.”

Upon motion made by Mary Pat Fox, duly seconded by Elia Marnik, it was unanimously

Voted: approve the minutes of the meeting of November 16, 2020.

A Financial Report was provided by Joe Finn and Donna Doucette.

Executive Director Report. Donna Doucette submitted a written report in advance of the meeting and solicited questions of the Trustees. She noted that the rebuilding of the email lists was a critical project. New people would be principally attracted by the BridgeDialogues, financial transparency and protection of children.

Donna Doucette also discussed the mini-synods, which are designed to use the Zoom meeting type experience such as were conducted on Friday night before last year’s conference, with the addition of some guided remarks from a guest speaker who then participates in the meeting that follows their 10-minute (maximum) remarks. Each mini-synod will be limited in attendance, to ensure everyone gets a chance

to speak, and we will try to hold each within a region where we can perhaps connect “local” VOTF members or those in the same state or region. The same synod will then run one or two additional times in other regions, so we can leverage the presentation to multiple meetings. Finally, in addition to the ones who organize the short presentations, we hope to tab some of the local members to do the main participant building and spread the word, perhaps also to serve as facilitators.

2021 Conference Update: projected for October 23, 2021, virtual again. The goal will be the implementation of a just church, and generate action items. Joe Finn suggested also an examination of reform and renewal of the church throughout the past centuries. Margaret Roylance and Donna Doucette noted that this subject had been treated in 2002 and at other times, but not recently. Pat Gomez introduced the names of some local experts and authors in the field of church history.

A report on Protection of Children had been circulated by Pat Gomez, who addressed questions by the Trustees. First, the Pilot Study was proceeding with 25 chosen Archdioceses and Dioceses, by three Reviewers. The reviewers met and were prepared for their work by the executive director, then commenced data gathering.

Pat Gomez has prepared the first draft of the Reviewers’ Guide.

The main POC website Review Study is projected to start in March, 2021, continue through April, and end on May 31 2021. Mary Pat Fox will write to the bishops announcing the fact that the review will be conducted.

This is the fifth year of the financial transparency project. Margaret Roylance gave the report of the Financial Working Group, to the satisfaction of the Trustees. Margaret Roylance also remarked that a

third reviewer would be needed. She also reported on the contents of a lengthy meeting of the Financial Working Group.

Governance Review Update. The form of questionnaire is settled. Joe Finn reported on efforts to obtain funding.

Open Discussion. Joe Finn mentioned the work of Svea Fraser. [He noted that he had particular concern about the use of exclusively male responders by Pope Francis at liturgies. There was no good reason for not including women readers.]

At 8:18 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.