

Voice of the Faithful

Board of Trustees

March 15, 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 7:08 p.m.

An opening prayer was given by Elia Marnik, a prayer for community, inspired by Richard Rohr, Franciscan priest.

Upon motion made by Margaret Roylance, duly seconded by Elia Marnik, it was unanimously

Voted: approve the minutes of the meeting of February 15, 2021, as amended.

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

A discussion ensued concerning the participation of American indigenous groups, tracing websites with missions.

VOTF has been asked to participate in a graduate student's thesis project tracking the growth of social movements and change organizations within religious groups. The data analysis we conduct would also help us in marketing and outreach/PR efforts because it could track growth/decline over the years against events that might boost or depress interest. Nick would find this very useful for his work. All data published in the thesis would be reported anonymously. However, the board determined that the only financial or donor information to be shared should be what we post publicly, so that we do not violate the confidentiality of donor records.

2021 Conference Update:

Massimo Faggioli will be a keynote speaker at the virtual conference on October 23, and we have lined up a group from the Paulist Center who developed a lay-led

liturgy that streams each Sunday—they will describe the process they followed and how it works.

We are still using the theme “Re—Membering the Church,” which theme resonates nicely among potential attendees. The trustees mentioned other candidates for contributors to the Conference.

We have not done early signups or registration yet, because we have been focusing on the speakers for the conference. Until we have the latter, a good ad campaign cannot be developed and registration cannot be done.

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

Protection of Children Working Group Update. Pat Gomez submitted a written report in advance of the meeting. Pat Gomez has prepared the Reviewers’ Guide for the 2021 evaluation of diocesan sites. The POC website Review Study began in March 2021 and is scheduled to end on May 31 2021. Analysis is planned for June 2021.

A VOTF mini-synod on Protection of Children will be held on March 25, 2021. Elia Marnik will serve as convener and facilitator. After introductions, Pat Gomez will give a brief POC presentation, followed by group discussion.

Governance Review Update: Margaret Roylance reported that two reviewers are available. A mini-synod will be held in May 2021. Joe Finn reported that he has enlisted John O’Malley, SJ, for participation in the mini-synod.

There was no new business to come before the meeting.

At 8:10 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: April 12, 2021.