

VOTF BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING: MARCH 21, 2017

In attendance: Mary Pat Fox, Sandra Guynn and Michael Ryan on video chat; Philip Megna, Mark Mullaney, Larry Mulligan, David O'Brien, Margaret Royslance, and Anne Southwood on audio call. Also on the call was Executive Director Donna B. Doucette, as note-taker for the first portion of the meeting and as participant after the vote on the resolution.

Anne Southwood opened the meeting with a prayer.

In accordance with bylaws, the Board removed David G. O'Brien from the Board.

Financial Reports: Anne reports a positive outlook for the month; there is nothing unusual or unexpected. Donna reported that our operating reserves are high as a result of receiving half the bequest from last year. Setting aside the reserve amount established previously by the Board, the cash reserves stand at 2.5 months. Including the set-aside, the reserves would total 5-6 months.

Executive Director Report: The social media effort continues, and Donna will send a complete breakdown of that effort shortly. In summary, we chose 3 posts to "boost" on Facebook this last month, and for a total of about \$90 reached triple the number of people we usually reach there. The committee is meeting again in a few days, to discuss these results. The purpose of this effort is to get the VOTF name and what we do in front of more "eyes."

Donna reported that our press release on the Marie Collins resignation was picked up by *The Boston Globe* and *New York Times*. Donna did a radio interview with WGBH that was broadcast March 1. She also was asked for comments on a story *Our Sunday Visitor* expected to publish around March 6. As one might expect, that story emphasized the hierarchy's viewpoint, but also included words from those who seek reform, and that was a positive step. (Links to these were reported in the blog and the newsletter.)

Donna also was interviewed by Reuters on March 10 for comments on Pope Francis saying the church should ordain married men. However, we have not seen any results yet—the reporter also was working on a wider-ranging story and the older one may have been dropped.

Finally, WGBH Greater Boston asked Svea Fraser to come to the studios last week for a discussion about ordaining married men. Links to the interview are on the web site and were used in the recent *Vineyard* issue.

Donna also provided updates on some of the project work we are pursuing. An administrative project has been delayed, because we cannot access the web functions directly but must prepare a detailed process flow to submit to the database vendor in order to obtain a cost estimate.

She also reported on the steps taken to halt a hacking of the web site. Efforts to repair and reload files that had to be removed for protection will continue.

Financial Accountability Project: Margaret reported on the work that continues on the diocesan finances database, assessment of financial transparency, and the effort to grade transparency.

Healing Circles: Mark updated the group on progress of the Healing Circles. He noted that retired bishop Tom Gumbleton, who attended our first Circle, had sent Bill Casey a message that he will cite the Circles and how effective they are.

Media Contacts: The board discussed protocols going forward regarding media inquiries.

The meeting closed with the “Glory Be” prayer.