

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting (at VOTF office)

Voice of the Faithful, Inc.

February 6, 2007

7-10 PM (EST)

Board members: Present in office: Bill Casey (presiding, on phone), Jim Post, Svea Fraser, Ron Du Bois, David Castaldi; present by phone: Dan Bartley, John Hushon, Maura O'Brien, Elia Marnik, Bill Casey, Mary Pat Fox

Officers present in office: Mary Freeman, Gaile Pohlhaus (clerk who recorded minutes),

Officer present by phone: Sally Vance Trembath (joined at 7:30 p.m.)

Others in attendance: Mark Mullaney, interim Executive Director

Opening Prayer

1. Administrative Matters

The trustees amended and approved the minutes of 1/16/07 meeting. A discussion ensued which reaffirmed the board's commitment to minutes that reflect the content of the statements expressed.

The Board agreed that it wanted to meet in executive session as infrequently as possible and that such sessions should deal primarily with issues that are personal or private, including those that deal with reputations.

A discussion ensued about unanimous written consents. Our by-laws provide that such consents can be approved electronically. Such resolutions should be filed in the organization's minutes book with evidence of the consent given by each trustee.

The following motion had been moved and unanimously approved by the Board electronically and is reaffirmed at this meeting:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees of VOTF hereby expresses its appreciation and profound respect for the inspired leadership of David Castaldi who has served the Catholic community as chairman of VOTF's Board of Trustees from February 2005 to January 2007. In his words and deeds, David has given meaning to the concept of servant leadership.

Jim Post awarded David Castaldi a framed certificate and Svea Fraser presented a cake.

2. Leadership Reports

Mary Pat Fox made a report on the activity of the officers. The officers and working group 2 have decided to award Bishop Gumbleton an extraordinary "priest of integrity" award at the Washington D.C. VotF meeting on Feb. 24. The national convention is moving ahead with a theme of discipleship. The CIT has sent out Lenten materials relating to conscience. The appeals letter for March is on schedule. Conference calls are

going to be set up within regions with the officers, affiliate leaders, and NRC representative for the region.

Ron Du Bois and Dan Bartley gave the NRC report. Ron DuBois described an improved process the Council has implemented to deal with proposals. The Council is working on proposals dealing with statutes of limitations and financial accountability from Frank Douglas and on celibacy from the Goal 2 working group . A question has come up with regard to the upcoming elections for new NRC representatives. There are eight regions where no one is being elected since the reps are newly elected. A letter was sent out to all reps with suggestions as to how to run the election. The requirements call for a candidate to be Catholic and a member of national VotF.

3. VOTF Office staffing

With regard to the executive director search Mary Pat Fox reported that there will be an article in the February 8, 2007 issue of *In the Vineyard* with the address of edsearch@votf.org for input. The committee has reached consensus that fundraising should not be the personal responsibility of the executive director but that the director should have development strengths in order to provide proper oversight to that function. Mark Mullaney reported that Ed Wilson is preparing a list of key contacts for advertising for the job. The committee is taking into consideration several questions: what is the job, what does it take to do the job, therefore, for whom are we looking? The committee is doing its best to make sure that all can and do give input. By the end of February the committee hopes to have ads ready to go and connection with people of influence. The Board will be asked to agree with the benchmarks the committee proposes.

Both Angela Hope (office manager) and Jim Bertorelli (accountant) are leaving and have suggestions as to who might be persons to take over their jobs.

4. Mary Freeman gave the treasurer's report. Financial Statements for January will be sent out the week of February 11.

The final result of the year-end appeal was \$154,000 through January. The deficit for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2007, at this point is estimated to be \$83,000. The primary cause of this projected deficit is that gifts from major donors are well below budget. Between now and May a concerted effort needs to be made for major donors. The Development Committee was asked to develop fundraising proposals that could be reviewed at a future Board meeting.

5. Dan Bartley communicated the Board's informal response to NRC's request for comment on the celibacy proposal to the Council's steering committee. He reported that this was accepted by the steering committee of the NRC.

6. Committee Reports and Issues

The question of what should happen with minutes of committee meetings was raised by Jim Post. John Hushon thought that unless there was some action being taken, the

Board should rely on the committee chair's report to the board. After considerable discussion, the sense of the Board was that such minutes would be kept at the discretion of each committee and that committee actions should be brought to the Board for ratification and inclusion in Board minutes, as appropriate.

The Governance committee report by Elia Marnik indicated that Svea Fraser, Maura O'Brien, and David Castaldi will be leaving the board in June. The Governance Committee will form a nominating committee to identify replacement candidates. The committee is working on a list of competencies and criteria for board members. For example a person with connections to financial development would be desirable. The governance committee will form a nominating committee for the officers when it is time for such and will make sure that the job descriptions are accurate.

c. The Strategy committee's report on the draft VOTF identity statement was presented by Bill Casey. After extensive discussion, much of which was focused on how best to address the Catholic identity of the organization, the statement was remanded to the committee to draft a final version for action at the next Board meeting.

Closing prayer was led by Sally Vance-Trembath at 9:50.

Approved as revised 3/06/07