

## VOTF Board of Trustees Meeting, January 17, 2017

**Attending:** Mary Pat Fox, Anne Southwood, Sandra Guynn, Margaret Roylance, Mark Mullaney on video conference and David O'Brien & Larry Mulligan by phone. Also attending, Executive Director Donna B Doucette & Recording Secretary Alice Campanella. Absent: Mike Ryan & Phil Megna.

**Prayer:** Mary Pat opened the meeting with a prayer shortly after 7 p.m.

### **Financial:**

Ann had a happier tone for her report, noting the situation was improved albeit not fixed. Our operating cash reserves are now at slightly more than two months, but we are still awaiting some invoices for the month. Mary Pat pointed out that comparing YTD 2016 to 2015, the financial outlook was not so rosy. Donna noted that we are still recovering from the deficiencies suffered in May and June and said that it is normal to look healthier in December than the following March.

Donna also noted we are expecting a check from an estate of approximately one-half of a bequest, with the remainder to be received this summer. There was discussion of how to use these funds, as they are not restricted. A consensus was to first pay off the current loan, which has a small balance. Mary Pat suggested we create a reserve account for some of the remaining funds with the long-term goal of setting up an endowment fund. Margaret will draft something for *The Vineyard* concerning this bequest with an eye to encouraging others to include VOTF in their estate plans.

### **Financial Accountability:**

Margaret reported the Financial Accountability Working Group would meet on Saturday, January 21, 2017, to continue developing clear criteria for evaluating dioceses' reported financial statements.

Mark spoke of two foundations he has approached, giving rise to a plan to seek "soft spots" in the Boston archdiocese's attitude to VOTF, as these foundations' first question seems to be "what is the cardinal's position" on such initiatives as Healing Circles and Financial Accountability.

A meeting is scheduled in February to reconstitute the Development Committee. It will address, among other things, how to schedule giving to avoid the down times, such as the summer months. Mark asked the trustees if they would be willing to get on the phone to request money or to inform our members about what we are doing. Margaret is working on methods that might convert annual one-time givers into becoming the more desirable, for stability purposes, monthly donors.

## **Healing Circles:**

The Restorative Justice/Healing Circles group met last week, asking if our agreement to support them is still valid. We are firmly committed to our financial support for this project. The group is working to raise funds in addition to what has already been committed by VOTF. The staff at St. Anthony's Shrine is committed to raising \$3,000 for the next three Healing Circles to be conducted there. There have been nine (9) healing circles thus far, with the next scheduled for Ireland. One committee member is working on a budget for them.

Margaret asked if the question raised by Priscilla Deck while she was development director—what positive effects of the healing circles can be shown to fit within the funding metrics of the foundations from which we are seeking financial assistance—has been addressed yet. The board discussed various ways the 100%-positive comments from attendees could be reported as metrics a foundation might recognize.

Mark said that we have taken the wrong approach in dealing with the Catholic Church regarding Healing Circles: We need to find a bishop who has a passion for the project.

The meeting concluded at 8:20 with a prayer.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, February 21.