

MINUTES
Voice of the Faithful, Inc.
Board of Trustees Meeting, September 15, 2015

Board Members Present: Mark Mullaney

Present via Conference Call: Philip Megna, Larry Mulligan, Mary Freeman, David O'Brien and Anne Southwood

Board Members Absent: Margaret Roylance and Michael Ryan

Others Present: Priscilla Deck, Development Director, and Donna Doucette, VOTF Executive Director

President Mark Mullaney called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and introduced Priscilla Deck, the new VOTF Development Director, to the Board. He then asked Mary Pat Fox to offer an opening prayer.

The minutes of the August meeting were reviewed and approved.

Mark provided an update from the Audit Committee. We are now considering two competing proposals for a new auditor, both very responsive. The proposed rates are less than what we are currently paying. We will be making a decision this week.

Initiative Update

Mary Freeman provided an update on our ongoing initiatives and activities. There will be a Healing Circle in NYC on September 19th in conjunction with Michael Mack's play off Broadway "Conversations with my Molester" which runs through the Pope's visit to NYC. The Pope was invited in a letter. Donna indicated that we know it is a long shot, but if Pope Francis wants to attend we will make it happen one way or another. Mark expressed a hope that the Q&A following the play will generate enough interest to require another healing circle, although it is difficult to vet people as participants in a short period of time. It is essential that expectations be communicated correctly to ensure that the Circle will help people on their journey at that point in time.

VOTF Participation in the Pope's Visit and the Family Synod

Mark announced that we have been contacted by CBS, CNN, and channel 4 who have asked us to be available in Philadelphia, Washington DC, and New York City. There will be a lot of publicity around the Pope's visit and our ability to be on-site with everyone is key. We should have a presence in all three locations, with Larry Mulligan, Mark Mullaney and Phil Megna in Philadelphia; Mary Pat and Margaret in DC; and the Healing Circle activity in New York. We have reached out to the U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican. He will not be in Rome while Mark is there for the Synod on the Family but will be in Philadelphia. We asked to whom VOTF could present: 1. The results of the VOTF survey on family; 2. information on our activities concerning financial transparency (which the Pope has emphasized); and 3. information on our restorative justice efforts and the status of the Healing Circles, which are moving beyond the pilot stage.

COR Update

Larry Mulligan attended the COR meeting in Milwaukee and had several issues concerning VOTF involvement. It is a very loose organization. He approached the leader of Catholics for Choice privately about the nature of aborted material and received several books from him. He wondered if he might raise the issue at next COR meeting but accepts that it is probably not wise. Donna suggested that the Board consider whether we have reached a point where we are sitting out so many projects that it is pointless to be a member. We will continue our membership for now, but will also continue to assess the nature of COR activities and the wisdom of our participation.

Finances/Development

Our income from donations is not keeping pace with expenses. Expenses are contained, but we still must reach more major donors and need to get to level funding. The tighter our finances, the more time is spent on fundraising instead of making progress on our individual to-do lists.

Reviewing possible future development activities:

Response to the September appeal is beginning, but the Papal visit is unlikely to affect donations
October - a high-donor event

November - Spotlight movie with an event centered around it

We will also publicize Mark's going to Rome and may do email campaign related to his visit.

December - our traditional December appeal.

In addition, Bill Casey will be speaking at BC on December 3rd and we could hold a related event.

Executive Director's Report

Newsday (Long Island) ran a long article on VOTF and there have been radio interviews in Philadelphia in preparation for the Pope's visit. We are also awaiting publication of a Healing Circle article by *The Boston Globe*. They have said they would publish it in time with the Pope's visit. Marie Collins would like us to be in Ireland next year for a Healing Circle. Bill Casey has worked hard to vet people in preparation for the Circles, but as we do more of them we may need to have a mental health professional on-site to avoid putting any participant in a trigger situation. We are working with Boston College and BU to train more facilitators. We may wish to obtain insurance to cover some aspects of the Healing Circles to provide protection for participants and for VOTF.

AUSCP Conference

Svea Fraser and Mary Freeman are working with Donna on a collaborative effort with AUSCP targeting clericalism. If we wish to address clericalism, we need support from priests and this request came from the AUSCP committee so it is a good start.

Looking ahead: The next BOT meeting will be held on October 20, 2015. We plan a face-to-face BOT meeting on November 14, 2015, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The meeting ended with a prayer at 8:38 p.m.