

MINUTES
Voice of the Faithful, Inc.
Board of Trustees Meeting, June 16, 2015

Present: Mark Mullaney, Anne Southwood, Mary Freeman, Margaret Roylance, David O'Brien, Phil Megna, Larry Mulligan, Mary Pat Fox, Michael Ryan, Donna Doucette

Mary Freeman began the meeting with a prayer written by Phil Megna.

Mark introduced our new trustee, David O'Brien.

Finance Report

Treasurer Anne Southwood reported that VOTF did not meet the monthly revenue goal in May but noted that VOTF continues to show impressive control over expenses. Total May expenses were less than May of FY'14 and total FY'15 expenses were 4% less than FY'14. Executive Director Donna Doucette noted that we need to boost the number of major donors, as well as the levels at which they give. Small- to mid-level range donors continue to increase but what they provide does not have the impact—at our budget levels—that a handful of major donors, or significant grants, will have. We continue to boost the giving levels at those ranges, and we continue to attract the “return” of donors who had ceased giving or never donated.

Executive Director's Report

Donna noted that Pope Francis has established a new tribunal to handle cases where bishops have covered up clerical sex abuse. VOTF has issued a press statement, which was picked up by the *New York Times*. We also distributed the statement to members. VOTF also featured significantly in a tribute to Eugene Kennedy written by a Kentucky State Representative after Kennedy's death. Both the story on the tribunal and the tribute to Eugene Kennedy may be found in the VOTF blog and on the web site's Home Page.

Donna also provided updates on several going projects:

E.D. Project Updates

- Another successful Healing Circle has been completed and requests for Circles continue to come in from those who read or hear about the effort. We are gratified that this key project is now entering its “roll out phase.” We have presented a plan for the next 18-24 months to the collaborative Restorative Justice Committee, and we will submit grant proposals to foster the growth of the Circles and training of facilitators.
- Progress continues on the FWG project. There are 184 dioceses in the database, and we are 11 away from the total, thanks to Bev Spencer's work. Clare Keane is working on updating the entries already in the database. Alice Campanella has checked all of the bishop names to make sure those are current. Our primary need here is to begin preparing more “canned” reports that visitors can run, and to find some way to keep it updated. As with the Healing Circles, and all our work, we are limited only by the funding, not by the ideas and the work and dedication of our members.

- VOTF is running a Family Synod questionnaire Survey Monkey in preparation for Mark's trip to Rome.

Initiative Update

The remainder of the meeting was focused on a review of VOTF initiatives. The Board agreed that each initiative should have an strategic action plan going forward and identified leadership.

Protection of Children – will continue to be led by Pat Gomez. Margaret Roylance offered to support this initiative which should be featured on the VOTF web site in April, Child Protection Month.

Women's Role in Church – Other groups are working in this area, so we should work with them wherever possible but move forward with our own actions. Both Margaret and Larry Mulligan want to be involved in this initiative. Larry is in contact with a woman who is interested in becoming a deacon and he will work with her to determine next steps. He also is in contact with a new bishop and a priest who might be open to women deacons. Mary Freeman is the contact person for this initiative.

Married Priests – Ron DuBois, Ed Wilson, and Mary Freeman had been leading this initiative. David O'Brien expressed an interest in support this effort.

Bishop Selection – Anne Southwood and Jim Rooney have been leading this initiative.

Diocesan Financial Accountability and **Restorative Justice** are the two main initiatives, with updates and action plans covered by Donna's update in the Director's Report.

Mark Mullaney noted that Michael Mack will be performing his play "Conversations with my Molester" in NYC.

Mark then closed the meeting with a prayer.