

MINUTES

Voice of the Faithful, Inc.

Board of Trustees Meeting, November 18, 2014

Present in the office: President Mark Mullaney, Executive Director Donna Doucette, and Recorder Alice Campanella

Present via Conference Call: Larry Mulligan, Mary Freeman, Patricia Gomez, Mary Pat Fox, Anne Southwood and Philip Megna. Jayne O'Donnell called in to give the Development Report.

Absent: Margaret Roylance and Mike Ryan

President Mark Mullaney called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Opening Prayer: Mary Pat Fox

Draft minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and discussed. Some corrections were noted and the minutes will be amended, approved by the Board, and posted on the VOTF website.

Finance Report – Anne Southwood noted we are in a more secure financial position. Mark recognized Jayne O'Donnell for providing the initiative for the “matching funds.” The Board discussed the need to explore ways to encourage planned giving and donating in memory.

Healing Circle - Jayne O'Donnell gave a moving account of the Restorative Justice Healing Circle held October 31 and November 1, 2014. It was a positive experience for all involved. The committee is currently processing the attendees' reactions but those present experienced a deep level of sharing. Bishop Tom Gumbleton, who participated in the Healing Circle, acknowledged VOTF's role in a Sunday homily at St. Anselm in Sudbury. The next Healing Circle will be held in January in Northern Virginia and another is planned for Milwaukee around March.

VOTF Assembly – Jayne O'Donnell reported on the plans for the Assembly in APRIL 2015. The plan is for 4-6 workshops: Financial Accountability and presenting the new web portal, Women and the diaconate, Tom Doyle and survivors, Restorative Justice/Healing Circles. Any other workshops will depend on the interest of the other working groups.

Family Synod – Mark mentioned that VOTF needs to prepare for the October 2015 Family Synod in Rome as well as for the meeting that will be held when the Pope visits Philadelphia in September. Mary Pat asked if we plan to send representation to the Family Meeting in Philadelphia. Mark said that we need to facilitate the *voice* for Catholics, a *voice* that needs to be heard. The Board agreed that we must do something but we need to decide on the most effective way to prepare. Donna will send Ron's COR report to the Board.

Mary Freeman presented the Working Group Initiative Report, which is appended below.

8:40 PM - The meeting ended with a prayer.

Initiative Report from Mary Freeman:

Protection of Children Pat Gomez	Pat has been working with Donna, sending documents and organizational plans for the Protecting our Children web page. Most of the new information is ready. They will update the website mid-February or so with 2015 activities for Child Protection Month, April.
Women's Initiatives Pat Gomez	Working to gather information for the Women's Initiative web page. Pat has some material that is woefully outdated, so it's taking more time than usual.
Married Priests Ron Dubois	Ron picked up Bishop Gumbleton on 10/30 and asked him for the names of some bishops who might be open to asking for a married priesthood. Ed, Phil, Mary, and Ron plan to meet in early December to discuss this issue.
Meetings with Bishops Mark Mullaney	No fixed meetings at this time Possibilities with Bridgeport, Aux in Hartford as well as Blair in Hartford. Bishop Gumbleton provided the names of 5-6 possible Bishops to approach.
Bishop Selection Info per Nick Ingala	News releases were sent to local media in areas where bishops had resigned. Six U.S. bishops resigned between March and November, and we sent news releases to the local media covering five dioceses: Gary, Indiana; Greensburg, Pennsylvania; Grand Island, Nebraska; Santa Fe, New Mexico; and Boise, Idaho. In the sixth diocese, Victoria, Texas, although Bishop David Fellhauer turned 75 there was no public announcement so there was no release to the local media.
Survivor Support Bill Casey	Committee debriefed the Boston event. See Donna's report. No dates set for future RJ sessions but the next one may be in Bill's area.
Financial Accountability Margaret Roylance	The entering of diocesan financial data continues to be entered into the Filemaker DB. The goal is to establish a financial portal that has up-to-date diocesan financial reporting and also securing pariah collections. Looking for funding to keep info current and available. The Working Group seeks to combine our reports on the diocesan financial reporting with a study by the Canon Law Society of America. They have surveyed dioceses to see if they are in compliance with Canon law.