

Minutes
Board of Trustees Meeting (at VOTF office)
Voice of the Faithful, Inc.
June 30, 2009

Board Members Present: Bill Casey (presiding, phone), Ron DuBois, Elia Marnik, Svea Fraser, Pat Gomez, Dan Bartley (phone), Mary Pat Fox, (phone), John Hushon (phone), Ed Wilson (phone).

Officers Present: Janet Hauter, (phone), Kevin Connors (phone), Julie McConville (phone).

Executive Director: Donna Doucette.

Opening Prayer was led by Dan Bartley.

1. Administrative Matters:

- a. Bill Casey and individual Trustees welcomed Pat Gomez as a new Trustee on the Board.
- b. Upon a motion duly moved and seconded, the Board approved, as amended, the minutes of its meeting on May 19, 2009. (8-0-0).

2. Finances:

- a. Treasurer Kevin Connors reported financial results for the final month of FY 09. He indicated that VOTF faces continuing financial challenges due to reduced donation revenue, despite planned cost reductions (offset by one-time moving costs and increased expenditures supporting the Strategic Plan and October Conference).
- b. Executive Director Donna Doucette reported that in addition to the strong push for major donors and grants, she believes that VOTF must step up solicitations using lists of potential donors swapped with other non-profit organizations in FY10.

3. Development:

- a. On behalf of Committee Chair Jayne O'Donnell, Donna Doucette reported that a July appeal solicitation is in process in connection with the rollout of the Strategic Plan, but that we need to generate more revenue. The committee continues to explore opportunities through major donors, grants and foundations. Jayne also mailed requests for FY 10 pledges from each Trustee.
- b. On behalf of Jayne, Bill Casey asked the Board to amend its earlier decision to link the announcement of a dues structure to the rollout of the Strategic Plan because President Dan Bartley concluded that the linkage would work against the positive message to be conveyed by the Strategic Plan. There was no objection. Bill also indicated that he and Jayne will present a fully-developed membership dues proposal to the Trustees for approval at the next board meeting, including clarification about membership and voting privileges.

4. Strategic Plan

Dan Bartley reported that the Platform teams are completing Project Templates by June 30. This is the final important step before the Officers and Core Leadership Team get set to roll out the Strategic Plan to all members and to ask for their help and financial support. Dan also reported that the newly formed Core Leadership Team, which consists of two representatives from each of the five platforms and three affiliate leaders, is serving as the coordinating body of the five platforms. Another affiliate leader from the West Coast will be added to the team shortly. The team has had two productive calls already this month.

5. Committee Reports:

Governance Committee Chair Elia Marnik reported that the special committee of Governance Committee members and three other leaders are continuing conversations about how VOTF can incorporate grassroots participation in VOTF in lieu of an inactive NRC. In addition, two articles published in the VINEYARD newsletter have resulted in several suggestions from readers. Elia said that they are looking to other successful groups for ideas and how the Strategic Plan will fit into ways to reflect grassroots participation.

6. Leadership Reports

a. Long Island Conference.

Committee member, Kevin Connors, reported that the committee has been working on a conference brochure to send out to all members. It will feature information about the speaker line-up, the Strategic Plan and how members might get involved. The committee is also moving forward with a conference Program Book and urging affiliates, religious organizations, book publishers, businesses and VOTF members to place an ad in the program.

b. American Catholic Council.

ACC co-chair, John Hushon, reported that their attempt to get some moderate religious organizations to become members of the ACC has not been successful, but outreach is continuing. Some religious communities and employees of the Church fear they put their ministries or employment at risk with a local bishop if they participate, but the ACC intends to invite all of the bishops. Dan Bartley stated that the ACC has decided that all Catholics are invited to join and he suggested a statement, "Come join in the conversation" to emphasize this inclusivity. John reiterated the ACC's disclaimer (listed on its website) that participating individuals or organizations do not endorse any of the sponsoring groups by participating. The Trustees acknowledged that sponsorship of the ACC is controversial and poses some risks of losing the support of lay Catholics who are not supportive of the ACC, but it faced similar risks if it opposes an open Church-wide conversation about the issues of concern to laity, many of which fall squarely in VOTF's mission and goals. Bill Casey encouraged Dan Bartley to develop and communicate a very clear explanation of VOTF's support of the ACC.

c. Executive Director

Donna Doucette reported that a recipient of a \$75,000 settlement from the Church has proposed to VOTF that it serve as administrator of grants from the settlement for women in pastoral ministry who believe they have been unfairly dismissed from their jobs by the Church. Donna explained that VOTF's could administer the settlement payments under its

501(c)(3) designation and receive a reasonable fee for the service. The Board authorized Donna to work out the details.

7. Miscellaneous

a. Donna Doucette recommended that VOTF decrease its annual costs for Directors and Officers Liability Insurance after obtaining a lower rate from comparison shopping and by dropping coverage for non-essential provisions. The annual cost would decrease from \$3,500 to \$2,200. During the next year, Donna recommended that the Board examine whether its current level of coverage is adequate, or too high or too low. The Board authorized Donna to make the recommended changes.

b. Bill Casey obtained the Board's agreement for the list of Trustees that he proposed for the four standing committees of the Board in FY 10. The Board agreed.

The next meeting is July 28, 2009.