

**Minutes (Final to be voted upon)**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting (at VOTF office and teleconference)**  
**Voice of the Faithful, Inc.**  
**May 25, 2010, 7:00 PM to 9:06 PM Eastern**

**Board Members Present:** Bill Casey (presiding and phone,) Svea Fraser (office), Pat Gomez (office), Elia Marnik (office), Ron DuBois (office), Ed Wilson (phone), Mary Pat Fox (phone), John Hushon (phone) Jayne O'Donnell and Dan Bartley (absent)

**Officers Present:** Janet Hauter (phone), Kevin Connor (phone), Nick Mazza (phone)

**Executive Director:** Donna Doucette (office), Julie Dutcher (Development and office).

**Opening Prayer** was composed by Jayne O'Donnell and prayed by Bill Casey.

**Administrative Matters:** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved minutes of the meeting on April 17, 2010, with three revisions (8 yeas, 2 absent). Board Member John Hushon, concerned that too much time was being taken up discussing the revision of minutes during the meeting time, duly made a motion that was seconded. The motion reads, "I move that the first order of business be the adoption of draft minutes with any such suggested changes being pre e-mailed to the secretary prior to the meeting."

Additional discussion on the Board's consent to attached committee reports of April 17, 2010, minutes was dropped.

**2. Development:** Refer to Jayne's Development Report submitted prior to the meeting. Discussion was suspended since Jayne was not present at this meeting.

**3. Finances:** Kevin indicated that the 2010-2011 proposed budget would be submitted to the Board prior to the next meeting in June and that he would allocate sufficient time for Board to review the budget. Kevin indicated that the August to September period, where cash is limited, was a primary concern for him in preparing the budget and that careful planning would be required to get through these low months.

Donna indicated that on the cash flow projections the numbers she uses for revenue are conservative and that she anticipated additional income throughout the fiscal year. Because projected expenses are more fixed than revenue, the budget may only appear to be more difficult to manage with the addition of higher salary and benefit expenses.

**4. Election of Board Chairperson:** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, Elia Marnik was elected chair to succeed Bill Casey. The resolution passed 7 yeas and 2 absent. During the discussion Elia requested that Bill Casey reconsider for an additional term. Bill quickly declined. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, Mary Pat Fox was elected vice-chair to assist the new chair. The resolution passed 7 yeas and 2 absent.

**5. Re-establishment of Strategic Planning Committee:** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved a resolution to re-establish the Strategic Planning Committee. The resolution passed 8 yeas – 2 absent.

Discussion surrounding this action of the Board centered on the purpose of the Board's Strategic Planning Committee in light of the fact that the Networking and Planning Platform recently

reconfigured might confuse or even possibly usurp the responsibilities of the Board in its planning responsibilities. As explained, the N&P Platform would be assuming a more futuristic planning mode where they would, in light of changes in the church landscape and changes in society, advise the officers and the board of possible strategic scenarios where strategic actions could be considered and ways they could be planned more effectively. Concerns centered on the autonomy of the other VIA Platform initiatives to determine their internal planning for themselves as well as not usurping the fiduciary responsibility of the Board to protect the mission or mission statement of VOTF by the N&P Platform.

## 6. Leadership Reports

Officers. President Dan Bartley reported briefly on the Officer's Report to the Board and specifically mentioned the current progress with the Bishop Selection document. A letter was written in response to an acknowledgement received from Cardinal George as head of the USCCB.

In contrast to the Officers' report on the VOTF Pentecost action, Bill Casey expressed frustration that the action was not consistent with the Board's endorsement of a bold action during its meeting on April 16-17. He compared the Board's action to the bold statements issued during the same period by clergy, Bishops and Catholic journals. It was mentioned that MARCOM opted to reach out publicly in a less contested manner at this time.

**Chicago Leadership Conference:** Janet Hauter indicated that she would be submitting the agenda for the Conference for review and comment in the upcoming week. The Conference is an outgrowth of the Core Leadership Team requesting a face-to-face meeting in 2010. The Conference will be an opportunity for the core team to interact, review VIA initiatives and to receive information and formation training on Servant Leadership.

## 7. Committee Reports:

a. Governance. Committee Chair Elia Marnik reported that the Governance Committee report was submitted before the meeting. There was no discussion on the report. The Chair was interested in the coordination of the Board of Trustee schedule of Board meetings.

b. Advisory Council: Board Chair Bill Casey presented an historical summary of an Advisory Board proposal developed in 2008 by Jayne O'Donnell. In that proposal the Advisory Board was structured as part of the Nomination Committee of the Board. Discussion during the meeting focused on the composition and purpose of the Advisory Board. Mary Pat Fox asked that council members forward their ideas for the future Advisory Board to her between meetings. Further discussion will be planned for the next Board meeting.

c. Trustee Nominations. Committee Chair Mary Pat Fox reported that the nomination committee reviewed, interviewed and selected five nominees from a cadre of nine candidates. The candidates were composed of the three incumbents Ron DuBois, Ed Wilson, and Jayne O'Donnell, each of whom was excused from the Board meeting so that a discussion and vote could ensue. All three incumbents were elected by the Board as well as Mary Freeman and Mark Mullaney who are currently non-board members. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board accepted the recommendation of the nominating Committee. The motion passed 6 yea and 2 absent.

*Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:06 pm (8-0-1 absent). The next scheduled Board meeting is set for Tuesday, June 22 at 7:00 PM EST. The date was rescheduled for Wednesday, June 23, 2010 after the meeting adjourned.*