

Minutes (Draft)
Board of Trustees Meeting (at VOTF office and teleconference)
Voice of the Faithful, Inc.
August 24, 2010, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM Eastern

Board Members Present: Elia Marnik (presiding and phone), Bill Casey (phone), Pat Gomez (phone), Ron DuBois (phone), Ed Wilson (phone), Mary Pat Fox (phone), John Hushon (not on call) Jayne O'Donnell (phone), Dan Bartley (phone) Mary Freeman (phone) and Mark Mullaney (not on call)

Officers Present: Janet Hauter (not on call), Kevin Connor (phone), and Nick Mazza (phone)

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

Opening Prayer: Mary Freeman lead a beautiful prayer on “Mary, Mother of the Living”

Administrative Matters: Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved the consent agenda items and a revision to the minutes of the meeting of July 27, 2010, by a vote of 9 yeas- 0 no- 2 absent). Revised minutes will be sent under separate cover by Secretary Nick Mazza.

Development Committee Report: Committee Chair Jayne O'Donnell presented her report. There were no questions from the Board. Julie Dutcher, Development Associate was complimented for presenting a very professional report.

Finances: Treasurer Kevin Connors reported that our financial position has moved from the SAFE category to the ADEQUATE category. As a result, we are currently operating slightly below our projected budget. However, this is typical for the summer months. Despite this situation, our cash position for both July and August are showing improved results.

Trustee Nominations and Advisory Council Report: Committee Chair Bill Casey provided a summary report on the status of the committee's work to date. He indicated that a completed report would be available at the September's Board meeting. A few trustees inquired about the type of advisors being considered by the committee. It was reported that this concern is the focus of the upcoming months committee work and will be forthcoming.

October Tri-State Conference Report: Committee chair Jayne O'Donnell reported that the conference is being held at Mt. St. Vincent's College, Riverdale, NY. The conference is being held all day on Saturday, October 30, 2010. Participants are largely from the tri-state area of NY, NJ and CT. Lodging has been arranged in the local area for those traveling from a distance. Negotiations are still underway for an Executive Meeting Room that will be a site for the Board's meeting on Sunday and Donor Reception immediately following the conference as well as for the face-to-face meeting of the CORE team and Initiative members prior to the conference on Friday, September 29, 2010.

Leadership Reports: President Dan Bartley reported that the segmentation of the Affiliate list server is being adequately and satisfactory resolved.

The Women's Initiative consists of our largest VIA initiative team and is comprised of very talented individuals who are highly motivated. This team has put together a plan of action and is currently in the process of establishing a “blog” site for women to “gather around a virtual table” to discuss their concerns about our church. This mechanism will provide the team with insights from women

nationally and be a source of discussion and information that can generate reports on women in the church. Secretary Nick Mazza who also co-moderates the Universal Church Reform (UCR) Platform reported that he recently surveyed the team on the issue of women's ordination since it has become an issue of international interest. The team will continue with their formal plan which has been developed this past year and will address women's deaconate but not ordination. Nick will provide the Board and Officers with an alternative option before the next meeting.

Trustee Bill Casey expressed a concern that VIA teams might work on controversial issues that could cause concern for the Board at some future date and frustration for the teams working on such issues. UCR co-moderator Nick Mazza indicated that the women's team is well aware of the Board's positions and that neither concern expressed is relevant to the actions of the women's group.

However, to assure that no other team or future actions arise that would warrant a Board concern, Trustee Bill Casey presented the following motion which was seconded. It reads: "RESOLVE, that the Board will develop a statement to clarify its unique roles and responsibilities under the VOTF By-Laws for corporate strategy, policy and objectives. In order to reduce the likelihood of frustrated expectations by other VOTF groups that work on strategy, policy and objectives, the Officers will communicate the Board's unique roles and responsibilities at the time such groups begin working on these matters". The motion was passed 9 yeas, 0-nays and 2 absent.

The Strategy Team Charter was sent to the Board just prior to the meeting so review by the Board is needed. MarCom Guidelines for restricting funds will also have to be review at a later time.

The Executive Director reported that three conflict of interest statements are still due. Donna also expressed a concern that attrition rates of e-mail addresses of members on our data base is a concern. This has had a negative impact on dues collection.

Other Business:

Trustee Bill Casey gave a report on the SNAP Conference which he attended. In light of our relationship with the survivor community, discussion ensued over our support of the Reformation Day event on October 31, 2010 in Rome, Italy. It was decided that VOTF would provide web-site exposure of the event but would not give public support of the event as was requested by the organizers.

The Emily and Rosemary Fund for Women In the Church press conference in Erie, PA were greatly received and the Board thanked both Media Coordinator Jessica Lillie Ciccone and Trustee Bill Casey for attending and representing VOTF. The office has received questions about the application process for the Fund and the mechanism for making donations to the Fund as well.

Finally, the Board discussed the recent letter sent to the Pope with the VOTF logo on the VOTF Chicagoland letterhead giving the impression that this was the opinion of VOTF national despite the fact that this letter was the personal opinions of these members, the Board expressed their concern that this type of situation not happen again..

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm (9-0-2 absent). The next scheduled Board meeting is set for Tuesday, September 28, 2010 at 7:00 PM EST.