

MINUTES
Voice of the Faithful, Inc.
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday January 19, 2016

Board Members Present: Mary Pat Fox, Larry Mulligan, Phil Megna, Mary Freeman, Margaret Roylance, Mike Ryan, Anne Southwood, Donna Doucette, Executive Director

Board Members Absent: David O'Brien, Mark Mullaney

Vice President Mary Pat Fox called the meeting to order and said the opening prayer.

Margaret Roylance presented the minutes of the Face-to-Face meeting of the Board on November 13 and 14, 2015 which were accepted.

Executive Director's Report

The trustees all received an Executive Director's report. There were no questions for Donna concerning the report, but Margaret asked about the outcome of a meeting which was planned at the Face-to-Face meeting and mentioned in the minutes. Mark, Phil, and Bill Casey took part in a conference call concerning women's issues with Francis Piderit and members of the Manhattan affiliate's leadership team. Phil provided a summary of the meeting. Francis thought the Healing Circle concept could be adapted for women in the Church. There were some concerns about this approach since it might cause confusion about the nature of VOTF Healing Circles which are currently focused on harm caused by clerical sexual abuse, although they can be used to address a much wider range of issues. The affiliate is working on plans to adapt the concept for their purposes. In addition, Margaret and Mary Pat, who are currently leading the initiative on Women in the Church, will consider the need for healing as part of any effort on behalf of women.

Financial Report

The Financial report was presented by Anne and Donna. There were good returns for the December end of the year appeal. Donna noted that VOTF expenses are averaged out across the year but our revenues fluctuate from month to month, so there are periods in the year where our cash flow is a concern.

Development Report

Priscilla Deck had sent a copy of her report to the board. She is exploring foundations and has edited VOTF's profile on Guidestar. Among her suggestions was to hold Oscar parties to follow the results of "Spotlight's" six nominations. There was some concern expressed because the Oscar presentations are long and include many other films and numerous categories not focused on the abuse crisis, but Oscar parties may work very well for some groups or affiliates.

Although David O'Brien was unable to attend the meeting, he had provided a list of 12 thoughts for future VOTF actions. Mary Pat reviewed Dave's list and the Board strongly supported a Spotlight event as an action to pursue. There was a suggestion that VOTF might explore the possibility of getting Sasha Pfeiffer to speak at a fund raiser. All Board members agreed that it is important for VOTF in some public and positive way to answer the question of "what happened next?" which is obvious at the end of "Spotlight."

Priscilla is also planning a fund raiser with speaker Ron Heifetz. In order to prepare for the fund raiser, the *Vineyard* will feature a few principles of Adaptive Change for which he is famous. Donna will send a reading list to member of the Board on the subject.

Updates on Ongoing VOTF Committees and Initiatives

Nominating Committee

Mary, who is Chair of the Trustee Nominating Committee, reported that her committee had met and was contacting possible trustee nominees.

Healing Circles

The next Healing Circle will be held in Philadelphia.

Financial Transparency and Accountability

Margaret reported that a meeting of the Finance Working Group is planned for February.

Michael reported that the Archdiocese of Boston recently initiated “Offertory Collection Controls Initiative” which helps make sure Sunday donations make it to the bank. He said, “It’s been a long time coming—more than 25 years by my counting.” He also said the USCCB could end the financial vulnerability of more than 17,000 parishes by simple decree but they have failed to do so. Mike has offered to write an open letter to the USCCB and will deliver it to the Financial Working Group.

The meeting adjourned with a Glory Be.