

**Minutes (Final)**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting (at VOTF office and teleconference)**  
**Voice of the Faithful, Inc.**  
**September 28, 2010, 7:00 PM to 8:47 PM Eastern**

**Board Members Present:** Elia Marnik (presiding and VOTF office), 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 (office) and Mark Mullaney (phone)

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

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

**Opening Prayer:** Donna

**Administrative Matters:** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved the consent agenda items and minutes to the meeting of August 24, 2010, by a vote of 10 yeas- 0 no- 1 absent.

**Finances:** Treasurer Kevin Connors reported that our financial position continues to be in the ADEQUATE category. This category represents a 4.3 month average operating cushion. Although we are currently under our revenue goals, it is anticipated that we will be in a better position by the end of the calendar year. September's revenue is slightly less than projected. However, our expenses are slightly better than projected.

**Development Committee Report:** Committee Chair Jayne O'Donnell thanked Julie Dutcher, Development Associate, Donna Doucette, Executive Director and Trustee Mark Mullaney for participating in a major donor visitation and discussion. The meeting with this donor was congenial and supportive of VOTF and our reform programs. This donor will continue to support us and showed interest in the Women's Initiative efforts currently operating in our VIA programs.

**Trustee Nominations and Advisory Council Report:** Committee Chair Bill Casey provided an overview of the philosophy and structure of the Advisory Council for the Board to review. It was stated that the philosophy of the Advisory Council is to advise the Board and not to motivate our membership. A clear charter would be developed and presented to the Board by the November meeting.

There was a concern expressed that the Council lacked the presence of the Business community and Major Donors. The Board was polled on their views as to whether major donors as a group should sit on this Council. The vast majority of the Board felt that an Executive Development Committee was a more appropriate venue for major donor advice. Board members were encouraged to send questions about the proposal and Council structure to Bill over the next month and any recommendations for Council membership. Prospective Council members were listed by the committee for Board review, the following resolution was presented for Board review.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees adopts the VOTF Advisory Council model proposed by the Board Committee on Trustee Nominations and Advisory Council. The Board tasks the committee with developing a charter to govern the operations of the Council before the Chair initiates a search for Council members from a list of potential candidates also proposed by the committee and endorsed by the Board.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved the VOTF Advisory Council model proposed by the Board Committee on Trustee Nominations and Advisory Council by a vote of 9 yeas- 0 no- 2 absent.

**October Tri-State Conference Report:** Chair Eli Marnik thanked Donna Doucette, Executive and Treasurer Kevin Connors and the committee for all their hard work with the logistics for the conference. Hotel accommodations would be sent out and posted on our web site.

Julie Dutcher, Development Associate, and Trustee Jayne O'Donnell reported on the donor reception planned for Saturday evening after the concluding Mass for the Conference. Both individuals are working hard to increase donor participation at the reception.

The Board meeting will be held on Sunday at Mount St. Vincent's College. Issues to discuss include the Officer's Strategy team, the Advisory Charter, and Universal Church Reform, particularly a review of the Priest's Initiative actions.

Finally, Trustee Bill Casey presented the following resolution for the Board to review. The resolution is as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees adopts a Statement on Corporate Strategy and Policy for the purpose of improving development, coordination and decision-making when diverse leadership groups initiate and complete work on strategic and policy initiatives. That Statement is attached to the minutes.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved the Statement on Corporate Strategy and Policy by a vote of 9 yeas- 0 no- 2 absent.

**Leadership Reports:** President Dan Bartley reported that the Priest's Initiative is now under the Universal Church Reform Platform of *Voices in Action*. This is a very positive development.

Discussion on the Strategy Team will be deferred until the October meeting.

**Executive Director's Report:** Donna Doucette, Executive Director, presented the current statistics on Facebook. It was also mentioned that the interviewing process for Jessica Ciccone's replacement was continuing. Finally, the audit review report is ready to become public.

**Other Business:** Chair Elia Marnik expressed deep appreciation to Jessica Ciccone for her service and hard work to VOTF during the past two years. Elia complimented Jessica for her youthful contribution to her work, creativity and professionalism. She wished Jessica well in her new position and reported that she had presented the gift from the Board and Officers on Jessica's last day at work, September 30, 2010.

Mary Pat Fox indicated that the Ad Hoc Compensation committee has met twice and that they were moving forward on their review of staff salaries.

*Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:47 pm (9-0-2 absent). The next scheduled Board meeting is set for Sunday October 31, 2010 at 8:00 AM EST.*