

CORPUS Board Meeting
June 8, 2011
Minutes

Present: John and Roberta Hydar, Allen and Sylvia Moore, Anthony Padovano, Linda Pinto, Bob Walden

Sylvia opened the meeting with prayer. She asked members to focus on the ingenuity and creativity which the city of Detroit has historically represented. She noted that this new Board has an opportunity for new ideas and new adventures.

Approval of Board Conversation Minutes

It was moved by John and seconded by Roberta that the minutes of February 28, March 5 and March 21 be accepted as presented. The motion carried.

Agenda Approval

Various items were added. The Agenda was approved.

Pre-Conference Event

Linda reviewed scheduling for Friday's CORPUS/IFRCM Pre-conference event.

Ambassador's Report

The German inspired Signature Campaign by theologians has garnered over 350 signatures worldwide. The International Movement: We Are Church (IMWAC), represented by Christian Weisner, wishes to include signatures from people at large. This idea received a great deal of media attention in Germany. American Theologians have been reluctant to sign on. The other two major reform groups involved are International Federation for the Renewal of Catholic Ministry and the European Network. Anthony noted that Vatican II was a gift from Europe to the world. In response, Weisner noted that the American Bill of Rights was our gift to the world.

A committee from IMWAC and European Network are planning a meeting to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Vatican II in Rome sometime in 2015.

IFRCM (Simon Bryden-Brook) is planning a meeting in London, 2013.

COR Report

Linda and Anthony discussed the report which was previously distributed. Both noted how valuable the interchange and networking among COR organizations is.

CTA Exhibit Booth

Linda informed the Board of the costs associated with sponsoring an Exhibit at the Call To Action Meeting, November 4-6, 2011. Anthony and Linda were charged to attend the COR meeting prior to the CTA Conference. Linda was charged to register for a booth and attempt to identify a local member to assist with booth presence as a cost cutting measure. The Board also agreed that there was a value to have Linda attend the COR and CTA meeting. It was agreed that Allen and Sylvia also attend the CTA meeting, as they have relatives in the area, which would be a cost savings to CORPUS.

Board of Advisor By-Law

Allen spoke to revisions proposed to the Board of Advisors By-Law. It was agreed that Article IX read as follows:

Section 1

(No By-law applicable)

Section 2

- a. The Board of Advisors serves the elected governing Board as a consultative and advisory resource.
- b. The Board of advisors acts as a moral force, assuring that the mission of CORPUS is respected and that the Constitution and the inclusivity it intends are observed.
- c. The Board of Advisors, by extraordinary action, may alert the membership of CORPUS at large that the elected, governing Board seems to be acting in an unconstitutional manner or a manner at odds with the mission of CORPUS.
- d. Members of the Board of Advisors are welcome at meetings, at their own expense, may suggest items to for the agenda, but do not enjoy voting rights.
- e. Similarly, Advisors do not participate in conference calls unless invited.
- f. The current President of CORPUS shall see to it that the Board of Advisors receives minutes of all meetings.

It was moved by Bob and seconded by Sylvia that the By-Laws be amended as presented above. The motion passed unanimously.

New Ordinands

John and Roberta suggested that we gift women who are ordained in the Ecumenical Catholic Communion the same gifts we give to Roman Catholic Women Priests. Linda noted that historically RCWP be about the reform of the Roman Catholic Church with regard to women's ordination. The ECC has stated clearly that it is not about reforming the Roman Catholic Church.

Sylvia spoke to the good rapport that exists between CORPUS and the Ecumenical Catholic Council.

It was moved by John and seconded by Sylvia that we change the current policy of sending only cards and begin gifting oil stocks and pyxes to deacon/priest ordinands of the ECC.

Database

Linda reported that Andy Kukec is actively engaged in managing the database. She will follow up with whether he is currently generating "thank you acknowledgment" letters.

Small Intentional Communities

John and Roberta presented some information on Intentional Eucharistic Communities.

It was moved by John and seconded by Sylvia that we join the IEC. The motion passed unanimously.

Thursday, June 9, 2011

Linda began the day with prayer based on Ed Hayes "The Season of Spring" and the Benedictine Short Breviary.

Financial

In order to guide the investment policy of CORPUS, Bob posed the question "Where do you see CORPUS in 10 years?"

Sylvia commented that it would be a sad situation if CORPUS were still around in 10 years. However, we need to continue to support reform, especially by supporting small faith communities. Roberta noted that our membership is aging, but the witness of CORPUS needs to continue. John noted he sees no hope that the hierarchical church will change within the next ten years. He reaffirms the need for the work and witness of CORPUS to continue. He agrees that partnering with other reform groups may be an option in the intervening time.

Anthony expressed his gratitude that an officially recognized, married priesthood within the institutional church never came about as that would have trapped and bound us. We would have been unable to address contingent reform issues. i.e., divorce and remarriage, compassion and embrace of LBTG issues, ordination of women, communion for all, etc.

He noted that the Inclusive Community (Chatham, NJ) will celebrate its 25th anniversary. While it continues to be a small Community, there is enormous value in its work and witness. He noted that quantity does not always equate to quality. He compared this witness to the value of CORPUS.

Thirdly, every reform group is feeling helpless, as they continue to seek completion of their mission.

CORPUS has gone through five stages:

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| 1974-1988 | Stay within the institution church; follow its policies; don't celebrate publicly; enter into dialogue with Bishops |
| 1988-1995 | Become a resistance organizations; proclaim our identity as "married Priests"; enter into public service |
| 1995-2001 | Re-examine our desire to return to an institution which will not recognize the full equality of women; let's resist |
| 2002-2010 | Recognize that the real focus of the Vatican is to "kill the Council". Our aim, then, became protecting and proclaiming history. |
| 2011 | We have become an Intentional Community . We have a long history of being canonical priests, in many cases our wives as professed religious. It is a unique history and witness. We have become a catalyst for other things to happen, such as the American Catholic Council |

He noted that there is enormous respect for CORPUS among the reform community. In fact, just providing witness is a value in itself. He commented that "CORPUS is the Vietnam wall, reminding the Church that we are still there."

Linda remembered Strategic Planning for CORPUS in 1990. It was an extensive document, facilitated by Mike Breslin, which outlined, in detail, where CORPUS would go in five years. She commented that from a business perspective, CORPUS does not function well. But, she noted, we are not a business. She sees CORPUS as an instrument of the Holy Spirit. She noted that we need not be cavalier, but we must recognize that this work is not our own.

Allen remembered a comment by Dick Westley at our Chicago Conference (1991): *Why are you working for a married priesthood. It's already here.*

Bob requested that in light of our vision, what financial goals do we set? He reported that we lost about \$38,000 over the past nine years. That equates to spending \$4000 more than we take in. Anthony commented that it is significant that we provided the amount of service to members. Sylvia noted that the ongoing witness is the contribution we should make.

The Board agreed that conservative growth is the best approach to provide funds.

Bob will investigate the use and purpose of the Vanguard Money Market Fund (\$6913.19). He is proposing that we place that in a safe, growth fund.

It was moved by Bob and seconded by John that we transfer the Vanguard Money Market Fund to another Vanguard Fund providing for growth. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Sylvia and seconded by Roberta that we sell our stock portfolio and put the proceeds into the M & I Money Market. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Bob and seconded by John that we affirm a financial posture of safe, moderate growth.

There was a consensus among the Board Members that we use our money wisely, but not restrictively.

It was moved by Bob and seconded by Sylvia that a contribution in the amount of \$500 be given to a newly transitioned couple in Corpus Christi out of the Ambre Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

Marcia asked for clarification for members who renew under the individual or couple membership but give less than the fee required. Linda noted that she has always acknowledged these members as Associate Members.

Bob will work with Linda to review and redraft letters of acknowledgment for membership renewal, Christmas Appeal and spontaneous gift. That text will be sent to Andy for inclusion in the FileMaker Pro program.

CORPUS REPORTS

Bob brought to the attention a request by Joe Hassan to place articles from CORPUS REPORTS on the website. Sylvia and Roberta offered to act as a Committee to help select these articles.

Ralph suggested that the dating of CORPUS REPORTS be changed to: Winter, Lent/Easter, Spring, Summer, Autumn, Thanksgiving/Christmas. This would address the concern that members have raised because they are receiving the May/June issue in early June.

It was moved by John and seconded by Sylvia that the nomenclature to CORPUS REPORTS be changed to reflect seasonal terms instead of dates. The motion passed.

Is CORPUS Catholic and is it a Church?

Linda noted that the official IRS status of CORPUS as a 509 (a) (1)-170 (b) (1) (A) (i) is legally recognized as a church. Therefore, CORPUS is not required to submit a 990 to the IRS.

The real question is does CORPUS consider itself as church? Anthony reviewed the history of the certification process. CORPUS deferred to the Federation of Christian Ministries to take the lead on formal certification. Anthony suggested that the broad support of members is to define ourselves as "catholic" but not as a "church".

Linda reviewed the minutes to the January 2010 meeting. Bill Manseau had requested that CORPUS partner with FCM, in order to secure the status of church for their certification process.

Anthony noted that FCM had withstood legal challenge over whether they could legally perform weddings in California and in Manhattan. Bob recommends that we not be involved in the certification process for Pastoral Counseling.

Allen cited an article in CORPUS REPORTS (September/October 2010) regarding being catholic:

NCMA/Community of John XXIII

Linda reviewed the history of the establishment of the National Catholic Ministries Alliance. She had previously provided historical and supportive material.

The Board questioned the efficacy of activities within the NCMA (given its limited activity and representation from each of the four included groups). Questions arose why this energy was not conducted within COR (Catholic Organizations for Renewal) boundaries. It was suggested that other organizations (FutureChurch, CITI, CTA) also had energies which focused on the reform of priestly ministry and should be included. There were also concerns about the NCMA's stated purpose of being involved with official certification, especially with regard to endorsement of licensed positions (prison and hospital chaplains, etc.) The Board unanimously concurred that this official endorsement was within the scope of FCM and not CORPUS.

There was consensus among the Board that CORPUS would support activities when requested, but there was no one willing to be responsible for inclusion on the monthly conference calls.

Timeline

Linda distributed a list of tasks needed to complete the Membership Renewal and Christmas Appeal initiatives. Allen and Sylvia volunteered to draft and coordinate the Membership Renewal initiative (due April 1st) and John and Roberta volunteered to coordinate the Christmas Appeal initiative (due October 1). Anthony volunteered to draft language.

Budget

Allen and Sylvia presented a working budget for 2011. Allen explained that usually a budget would have been drafted at the Winter Board Meeting. This past year the Board was appointed on March 1 rather than June 1st. Therefore, the Winter Board Meeting was cancelled.

Sylvia ran through line items and the rationale for each amount. Members qualified line items.

It moved by Bob and seconded by John that the working budget be accepted as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The budget will be published in the September/October issue of CORPUS REPORTS.

Conference

We will meet at the American Airlines Conference Center in Dallas, TX with the theme: *Our Young Dream Dreams: a New Way of Being Church*, June 29-31, 2012. Jamie Manson has confirmed as a keynoted. Scott Jenkins and Teri Thompson, Ecumenical Catholic Council, have been contacted to present a workshop on intergenerational dialogue. Allen and Sylvia have been working with Jason McCool to see if he was available to present the one-act play on John XXIII.

John and Roberts recommended David Rico, a Jungian psychologist, as a possible keynoter. His latest book is "How to Be An Adult in Faith and Spirituality."

Allen and Sylvia asked that they be relieved of the task as Conference Coordinators as of 2013.

Next Board Meeting

There was consensus that October 8-9, October 28-30, 2011 is an ideal date for the next Board Meeting. If necessary, Board Members set aside January 20-21 and 27-28, 2012. Various Board Members took charge to research the best location (i.e., Newark Airport, St. Louis, San Antonio, Santa Barbara).

Board Conversation

It was agreed that the Board would meet in conversation on July 7, August 4 and September 1 at 4:00 pm (Eastern).