



Association for the Rights of Catholics in the Church

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ARCC BOARD MEETING, NOVEMBER 5-7, 2010 WASHINGTON THEOLOGICAL UNION, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Present: Caridad Inda, Bob Schutzius, Charles McMahon, Ray Temmerman, Patrick Edgar, Richard Lebrun, Sonya Quitslund, Jack Dick, Earlene Mara, Len Swidler, Ingrid Shafer, Joe Boyle

The Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Caridad led the Board in prayer.

Patrick encouraged the Board to adhere to Robert's Rules of Order, in order to minimize problems. Clarification was requested in the event a matter of some urgency arose which could not be delayed. In such cases, a Motion can be made to suspend the Rules and allow for immediate Motion, debate, and vote.

Treasurer's Report (Sonya):

Revenues, expenses, and balance were presented.

Sonya presented requests from SNAP and VOTF.

M/S Jack, Bob: that we contribute \$50 to each of SNAP and VOTF.

Carried.

Assessments: Concern was expressed that transportation costs are far outstripping contributions by Board members, consuming most of income from the year. It was proposed that we raise the contribution per meeting to \$300, or revert to original specified contribution of \$200 per meeting plus a \$300 pledge.

After some discussion, it was determined the impact of either option would be too onerous. Instead, we will explore ways to increase funding through our work and reaching out to members and supporters.

The Finance Committee will take the issue for consideration and exploration of alternatives.

Action Item Review:

All Action Items were reviewed, with several being carried forward.

Membership drive (Jack):

Discussion: Need several more approaches. Agreed to continue developing additional proposals. Need to review timing of renewal letter, mailing format; identify members in various regions, invite them to be key people to contact local people to recruit for ARCC; supply them with materials. Who we are and what we have to offer is to be reflected in support materials.

Should we set up a Facebook page? What should be there? Young obtain their information, discuss social values there. Largest cohort with ability, time, money are older folks. Can we tap them?

Membership fee has not increased in years. Need to consider raising dues. Caridad suggests sliding scale

for membership, e.g. student, regular, retired, gift.

Discussion on bulk mail permits, use of prepaid return envelopes, timing of Annual Appeal, paper vs electronic publication, etc. was tabled to Saturday afternoon.

Shared Reflections:

We have a variety of options, e.g. reaching out to a) Catholics who have left, b) those for whom Vatican II is unknown, c) those who are worshipping elsewhere. We need to be actively doing our bit of whatever the Holy Spirit is doing. Faced with the difficulties in the Church today, it was noted that a dying paradigm takes on its most violent and ugly form just before it dies.

Recessed for Gaudiamus.

Saturday, 9 a.m.

Bob led us in prayer.

ACC Update/Reports:

Caridad presented a short paper on nonviolence which will be presented to the ACC planning committee. Non-violence is not about a specific spirituality, but about power. One brings about the death of a violent institution by restricting its sources of power. It was proposed that the document be posted on the ARCC web site.

Charles: Listening Session with 90-100 people. 6 breakouts, 3 simultaneously, with people able to attend 2, then plenary in afternoon. Bishops, Women in Church, Financial Accountability, Celibacy, etc. Putting suggestion to ACC to have these form breakouts, with a view to specific action items

Richard: 55 people at Listening Session in Winnipeg. Used ACC template. Got email addresses. 5 Jesuits, 5 religious women participated. Lots of complaints about wording of Rights document. Complaints that there were no responsibilities, just rights.

There was discussion on the value of having a vendor booth at the ACC.

M/S, Len/Caridad: that we have vendor booth at ACC, to sell Len's book 'Toward a Catholic Constitution', 'Bill of Rights' collection of essays by Coriden, the ARCC-Robinson DVD, and sell or give away other ARCC materials.

Carried

M/S Charles/Jack: That the ARCC DVD be sold for \$5.

Carried

Several action items arose from the discussion on what the booth should include. It was decided that Ray will be overall booth coordinator. Contact him with questions and information, cc Patrick. A deadline of February 1, 2011 was decided to finalize a list of all materials.

We will have our ARCC meeting prior to the ACC, all day Thursday 9th and Friday morning 10th. ACC begins Friday 6 p.m. through Sunday morning.

Transformational Theory (Charles)

Two ways of getting transformations:

- 1) homogeneous (e.g. radioactive decay). Doesn't work for Church.
- 2) Nucleation and growth. Start at 0, grow to 100%. Key is at boundary. 'Neighbours see it'. As this grows, boundaries enlarge, until connecting. Ray gave story of latrines in Cambodia.

Take lesson from Tea Party. Swap Rome/Church Leadership for King/government.

All politics is local. Problem may be in governance, but is very often evidenced in 'Father'.

Workshop Proposal (Patrick):

Targetting foundations that will fund things in particular localities.

Planning grant is to identify workshop issues, facilitators. One to be designed for Spanish community.

California suggested, only because grant application must be targeted, not shotgun.

Timeline for planning grant: early 2011. 4 cities to have workshops July 1 2011 – June 30 2012.

Suggest meeting in Philadelphia, so potential funder could attend. Several Board members volunteered to work with Patrick on the workshop planning committee, namely Len, Joe, Caridad, Sonya, and Jack.

It was noted that we have around table a massive amount of educating capacity. We need to apply that in educating people. There was discussion on the content of education, and of building a critical mass. It was suggested we devise ways and means of connecting ARCC members with each other. Are we able to reach a targeted audience for specific question, e.g. election of bishops? A document was distributed which is used in the selection of candidates for episcopacy.

Len proposed the Episcopal questionnaire be posted on ARCC web site, and that the list of Emeritus/Emeritae be updated.

Caridad requested a statement of relationship of ARCC with ACC. After discussion it was determined it was not necessary, that ARCC was supportive through individual Board members and the use of its documents, but not a driving or guiding force on the ACC.

Publications, Communication:

Pat expressed desire to have publications load shared. Ingrid welcomed the possibility, and expressed the belief we should move forward toward a scholarly version of ARCC Light, plus an electronic newsletter to be distributed every 4-6 weeks. ConstantContact was recommended as a vehicle for electronic distribution of newsletters, notices, etc.

There was discussion on who receives renewals. It was agreed that ARCC Light should go to all members in paper form, as well as electronically to those for whom we have email addresses. The newsletter, which will replace the ARCC Spot Light, would be an electronic bonus item to which people could subscribe by providing their email address.

It was also decided that we could use quality materials published elsewhere if permission were obtained, however the preferred option is to use links wherever possible.

The possibility of a bulk mail permit, as well as the use of prepaid return envelope inserts, was discussed. To help Bob, who has indicated a desire to move away from the mailing work, and cannot take on anything to do with bulk mailing, Joe agreed to take on the task of assessing bulk mail possibility, as well as mailing

out the next ARCC Light

Sonya proposed that the Annual Appeal letter should go out each October.

To develop ARCC membership, it was determined that we would attempt to obtain the list of emails of people who had attended the various Bishop Robinson sessions.

M/S Len, Caridad: That we establish electronic newsletter, if possible using Constant Contact.

Carried

Note: Ingrid and Earlene agreed to manage ConstantContact together.

Ray presented the work done on reviewing the various ARCC web sites, giving evidenced of the enormous amount of material that has been amassed, primarily by Ingrid, over the years. A suggested means of streamlining access to the sites was presented, and the ways this could be carried out discussed. It was determined it was possible while respecting such as retaining history, protecting the privately owned .org site, etc.

M/S Ray, Jack: That we revise ARCC sites as per Look and Feel presented by Ray.

Carried

ARCC Light:

There was extensive discussion on the way ARCC Light should be produced. It was recognized that peer review was an accepted part of producing a scholarly journal. At the same time, editorial freedom was equally required. All viewpoints were aired.

M/S Sonya/Jack: That the editors of ARCC Light be encouraged to establish a peer review process as the norm, drawing on resources within the ARCC Board for the determination of themes, etc.

Carried

Mission and Role of ARCC:

There was extensive discussion on our mission and role. Are we a think tank? Educators? Both aspects are needed. All around the table are theologically trained. Most are or have been professional educators. As our brochure states, ARCC **develops** position papers, **disseminates** information, and **organizes** campaigns regarding the rights of Catholics. Activities include **research** into the rights of Catholics, **education** on those rights, and **advocacy** where those rights are violated. We have proven ourselves competent at serving as a think tank. We need to develop more fully our competency as educators, through workshops and other means.

Several suggestions for possibilities in addition to the workshops were put forward, e.g. seeing if Michael Moore could be persuaded to do a documentary on the finances of the Church, perhaps based on Jason Berry's forthcoming book "Render Unto Rome". It may also be possible to assemble on the ARCC site a 'bookstore' on the topic of Catholic rights, the sale of which could serve as a modest additional source of revenue. All are encouraged to contribute titles for such a 'bookstore'.

Issues / expectations:

It was agreed that an agenda item between now and June is that of seeking out new Board members who fit one or more categories of young, person of color, Hispanic, canon lawyer, priest (religious?)

Names of potential Board members were put forward, with Board members taking responsibility for contacting each.

It was agreed we should have, and post, a standard description of Board member requirements.

ARCC DVDs:

Board members were encouraged to take sufficient copies of the DVD with them for their needs. It was agreed that Joe would take the remaining copies with him for safe storage.

Sunday

Len led us in prayer

Relationships with other Reform movements

CTA is very active, including in areas which are our focus. It would be timely for us to make contact with CTA and offer to explore together how we may more effectively collaborate to further our common interests. We should attempt to get our workshops on their CTA agenda, as well as have it publicized through their organization. We can also link to those of their resources relating to our cause, calling direct attention to them.

The same can apply with VOTF and FutureChurch, perhaps others.

M/S Len/Jack: That the President write to ACC, CTA, VOTF, FutureChurch and IMWAC inviting them to mutually explore ways in which we may collaborate.

Carried

Change in US Church (Caridad):

People have a right to have Eucharist in their language (e.g. Spanish). Caridad will be talking with the person at the USCCB on this issue, and will attempt to obtain information on what may be happening. It is important that we seek out any actual or potential Hispanic church reform movements, and offer our assistance.

M/S Sonya/Jack: That we establish a committee to review outreach to the Hispanic community.

Carried

Volunteers for the committee are Caridad and Bob, with Caridad chairing the committee. We will also reach out to ARCC members.

IMWAC (Ray)

There was a discussion on whether and how ARCC was involved with the International Movement We Are Church, especially in regards with our relationship with COR and COR's. Len will write a brief history of ARCC's involvement with iMWAC

Kung Award (Sonya)

Sonya explained the process for nominating people for the Kung award. Nominators are to provide Sonya with the name and the reason for the nomination. Nominations are then vetted by the Board and a selection made. Several suggestions were put forward

Leadership Round Table (Bob)

Bob offered to approach the Leadership Round Table, exploring avenues to collaborate with them, as well as to seek out additional Board members. His offer was accepted.

2011 Board meetings

The 'spring' Board meeting will meet in Detroit prior to the ACC.

The autumn's Board meeting will be Nov 11-13.

For the June meeting, we will cover our own individual meal costs.

Moved by Bob that the meeting be adjourned. (10:35)

Post meeting:

The Minutes were distributed by email, with an amendment adopted to include the names of the Board members who would serve on the workshop planning committee.

9 Nov 2010:

M/S Pat/Ray: That the Minutes be adopted as distributed and amended.

Carried

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