

REPORT BY CORPUS PLANNING COMMITTEE

By Nick De Los Reyes, Planning Committee Chair

In response to the membership survey completed in 2017, the Executive Council established a Planning Committee to come up with a 3 Year Plan for CORPUS. The Planning Committee has 10 members from all over the country, including the Chairpersons of the Executive Council.

The survey was sent to all CORPUS members; 88 responded, 65 of whom were ordained priests. The median age of respondents was between 75-85 years, and 75% of all respondents were above age 74.

The survey gathered a lot of information, including five propositions for the future of CORPUS. (1) Let CORPUS die. (2) Resuscitate with more members and donations. (3) Join with other renewal/reform organizations. (4) Urge American bishops to petition the Pope to ordain married men. (5) Have CORPUS members foster small house churches, etc., and work for justice and mercy. Survey respondents selected a first and second choice from among these propositions, as follows:

Combining first and second choice, the results were: #1 – 10 people; #2 – 11 people; #3 – 38 people; #4 – 36 people; #5 – 45 people.

In addition to the survey, all the past presidents of CORPUS were asked to express their ideas for the future of CORPUS. By and large, their views were consistent with the survey responses. They emphasized the good CORPUS has done; the importance of affirming the sacerdotal identity of priests who have left active ministry; the importance of maintaining CORPUS REPORTS, the CORPUS Website, and E-CORPUS; continuing conferences in some form; and issuing statements (advocacy), including statements in favor of optional celibacy for priests, Church reform, and inclusive ministry. They also acknowledged that it may be unrealistic to continue as we have been.

The Planning Committee has had 11 conference calls, about one per month. Although its work is not finalized, the recommendations it is considering making to the Executive Committee include the following:

1. We accept that CORPUS has a limited future and we need to be realistic about it. While not suggesting that CORPUS close down immediately, we need to navigate the future with our eyes open.
2. CORPUS REPORTS, E-CORPUS, and the CORPUS website should continue, primarily using electronic communication, with hard copy for those not equipped for electronic communication. A plan should be made for the continuation of these works in the event that those currently producing them are no longer willing or able to continue.
3. As long as CORPUS continues in existence, it should continue its participation with other reform groups and with the Federation of Christian Ministries.
4. Whether alone or with other groups, CORPUS should continue to advocate for causes pertaining to our mission or causes that are closely related.

5. CORPUS should modify its way of holding National Conferences. It should explore ways of using telecommunications for presentations and communication with leadership and among members.
6. CORPUS should encourage members to create local meetings for members; meetings which are easily accessible and affordable.
7. The CORPUS Directory should be updated and made available to all members to promote mutual support.
8. In preparation for the ultimate cessation of CORPUS, a document stating the goals, accomplishments, and legacy of CORPUS should be prepared **and** placed in the CORPUS archives, and made available to members.
9. According to the provisions of the Constitution and By-laws, a specific plan should be made for the disbursement of funds upon our historic conclusion.
10. Two years after the work of the current Planning Committee is completed and the Executive Council enacts its plan for the next three years, a new Planning Committee should be formed to make recommendations for the future.

The Planning Committee:

Pattie Bastian; Denis and Helen Coleman; Maryann Lord; Phil and Linda

Marcin; Maureen and John Sheehan; Chair: Nick De Los Reyes.

Please send your comments and suggestions to

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HELP WANTED AD

Corpus is in need of 2 Volunteers to Assist With:

+++Editorial Committee: Once a Month Phone Calls

To discuss form and content of Corpus Reports

**+++A Person Who Reads a Lot and Is Willing to Write
Short "Recent and Readable" Book Reviews for Corpus**

Contact Jim Ewens, Editor, jimewe@me.com

November Issue of CR will feature the theme of Leadership –

We seek your input, ideas, comments on this topic:

Write to jimewe@me.com by November 15