

House of Laity Steering Committee  
21 March 2018  
Minutes

Attending: Therese Gabriel, John O'Grady, Leo Champagne, Sandy Rice, Tom Wilding

1. Therese led us in prayer and then led a community check-in to see what was happening at our communities.
2. We discussed the Finance Committee's report (attached). The SC is very concerned with the direction of the financial situation of the last few years. While the budgets for the current biennium are running over, we have enough in our reserve to handle these overages, but we will not be able to in future years without undermining the reserve account. We discussed a number of strategies. The Presiding Bishop would like the HOL to take charge of a general appeal this year. We need to raise \$16,800 to be able to balance the 2018 budget. We agreed that we should make the appeal this spring and that using the "\$1.68 per every ECC member" might be effective. This is based on approximately 10,000 member. Therese will talk to +Francis and develop an appeal, aiming for some time between Easter and Pentecost.
3. We also discussed the plan for one community that has been under-tithing to make its way back to the required 5% level. We felt that the plan was more conservative than necessary. Therese will discuss this further with the Bishop.
4. The Mary Magdalene Society had sent some documents to the Leadership Council, which will be discussed at the next LC meeting. Two of those were directed at the Finance Committee. We had a general discussion and provided some concrete ideas, which Therese and Tom will take to the LC next month. While the financial plan for the MMS seems good, there are some concerns about ensuring that the MMS is more clearly shown to be an integral part of the ECC and that the decision making process include representation from the two Houses.
5. Tom provided some input from the Synod planning group. Tom is working with Dariusz in Poland on developing the Synod website and it should be up and running shortly with registration information, the schedule, the process for hotel reservations, etc.
6. The next batch of articles was sent out to the HOL delegates (and presumably the HOP delegates) for comments and concerns. They are the last pieces of the re-organized constitution that will be presented at the Synod. Two other articles, which will be presented as amendments, will be sent out next month, and the final revised version will be sent out around June 15 after all the input has been considered and final revisions made.
7. The HOL Orientation Program is undergoing revamping. Paula Hayford and Tom are working revising it to be in the style of an FAQ document. We hope to have something to show by the April meeting. The HOL Bylaws revision is stalled for the moment but will be worked on the next few weeks.