

**Approved February 26, 2019**

**THIRD ORDER, SOCIETY OF SAINT FRANCIS, PROVINCE OF THE  
AMERICAS**

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**Minutes of the Conference Call of January 22, 2019**

*(9:30 pm Newfoundland, 11 pm Brazil, 9 pm Atlantic, 8 pm Eastern, 7 pm Central, 6 pm Mountain, 5 pm Pacific).*

**Members on the Call**, Janet Fedders, Celso Franco De Oliveira, Phil Geliebter, Jeff Golliher, Verleah Kosloske, Josiah (Jotie) Noel, Liz Peacock, Alison Saichek, Peter Stube, and Masud Syedullah. Joan Verret joined us at 8:06. Rick Simpson joined us at 8:09 pm.

**Excused:** Tracey Fiore Carroll and Millicent Ramcharan

Janet Fedders, Minister Provincial, greeted everyone on the call while members gathered. There being a quorum, she called the meeting to order at 8:01 pm EST.

Janet opened the meeting with prayer.

1. Approve minutes of December Chapter Meeting. Verleah will make the two suggested corrections -- Jeff Golliher's title is Assisting Minister Provincial and Phil Geliebter whose name was inadvertently omitted was at the December meeting. We reviewed the Action Items -- The Companions Secretary needs another two weeks to confirm addresses; the Norms have been changed to incorporate the incarcerated policy; No Plan B will be introduced later in this meeting in the Sacred Ecology discussion; and Masud has uploaded his service materials to Dropbox. Verleah was instructed to go ahead and submit the minutes for posting after making the two changes requested.
2. Bursar Report (Alison Saichek) Alison said the whole annual budget is in first column and the other column is the first quarter which we are in the midst of. We are still awaiting more January pledges. The Companions and Medical Missions Fund are not part of our budget, but the Medical Mission Fund and Tom Johnson Fund appear on the report. In the future Alison will also note the status of the Companions Fund on the report. The Bursar's Report was approved as submitted. Rick joined us at 8:09.
3. Update on 2019 Directories The directories are at the printer. From there they will go to the mail fulfillment company who will mail them. After that they will be in the hands of the postal service and we have no control over how promptly they are delivered.
4. Profession Review for Dianne Lowe Dianne Lowe was approved for profession by consensus.

5. “Is It Time” Update by Peter Stube Peter said that Masud, Jotie, and he looked at the rationale for speaking out as an international order. We hope that Celso will be able to join the ongoing discussion. Masud’s guidance from previous experience was very helpful. Jotie is concerned with the legacy of this. Jotie’s biggest concern is consistency and accountability. He thinks it is important that everyone get a chance to look at it and comment. Janet is glad we brought in the extended Franciscan family and JCFU. Liz is willing to go along with whatever Chapter thinks. Jotie says that we need a protocol so that in the future the Minister Provincial will be able to follow through with a consistent process. Peter did note we are made up of 17 different countries. Masud had provided historical background of a time when there was a very good response to an invitation from a country. Masud described a situation in one country. One of our brothers brought to our attention a health care problem in one remote area of the country that was affecting our TSSF brothers and sisters and others who lived there. The government was not responding to the urgent health care needs of a group of people within the country. We garnered support from our membership to send two physicians and two lay people to take malaria medications. We also contacted the government and the Anglican Bishop in the area. Brenda Stewart who was at that time in the government of Jamaica and was used to working with governmental officials in other countries facilitated our contacts with the government of the country in question and the diocesan bishop who was supportive of our efforts. The government of the country in question was somewhat embarrassed. For a while they did step up to respond to the health needs of people in the affected region. Peter said we will use that as an example to further develop protocols for response to Franciscan awareness of a need in a country. Janet especially liked including the Principle as a basis for it. They will continue to meet and will report back on further progress on how the protocol would look if we are writing position papers. The protocol would include invitation by a Franciscan, awareness of a need in a country where our people are, and other factors. They will do more work and report back.

5. Update on our Prayer Cell Ministries by Janet Fedders. It has taken a while to set up prayer cells. There are 16 prayer cells in the province and 100 people involved. There is a prayer cell to support any ministry that needs it. Many of our members who cannot go out and do direct action can pray and get feedback on the needs of the particular ministry they are praying for.
6. Consideration of website change under “Our Rule”: from “Major Feast Days” to “Principal Feast Days” Liz Peacock said that the language traditionally in the “Our Rule” requirement has been to require Eucharist on Sundays and Major Feast Days. Major Feast Days was never defined. Rick Bellows asked that we change it to Sundays and Principal Feast Days such as we require in Formation. The Website and How to Write a Rule document on the website should be changed to Principal Feast Days. So many churches now are not offering services that people can attend on all feast days. It is hard to find an Ascension Day service, for instance. Masud asked whether all the Books of Common Prayer throughout the Province are in accord. Are the Principal Feast Days standard throughout the Province? We will table this and check the BCPs. Peter asked about feasts such as Ascension Day services which are hard to find. Masud said Ascension and Epiphany services may be harder to find. What about adding “Where possible?” Jotie said if we make it Principal Feast Days where possible that would take care of it. The

Consensus is to change "Our Rule" on the website to "Eucharist on Sundays and Principal Feast Days where possible." Formation materials will also be changed. Agreed by consensus. Janet and Liz will write something up to circulate so that everyone can say yea or nay.

7. Admission to Formation question: we determined to drop the 2-years-in-the-EpiscopalChurch requirement at a previous meeting. We have recently had a question about a transfer person. Would the same apply to transfers? Liz Peacock said that typically when we have a transfer by someone who has professed in another order, we give them a shortened formation of one year. Liz wonders whether someone is also a brand new Episcopalian should be allowed the shortened formation period. Joan says the length of time in the Episcopal Church doesn't matter. Our goal is teaching Franciscanism not Anglicanism. Liz is reluctant to let someone who has limited experience with the Church get an accelerated track in TSSF. Jotie says we need to think what it means to be Anglican in each country. We need to see how it relates to mission outreach. Phil said we have two members who are ministers in other denominations. How many people in your parish have been there for years and what does it take to define them as Episcopalian or Anglican? Peter said that in ministry we require one year of Anglicanisation? Are we expecting people to be fully formed before they begin their journey with us? We cannot foretell what will happen with anyone in the future. "One year, concurrently is enough," Peter said. Baptism is the entry. Liz asks about involvement with church/fellowship. Dom Celso said, "We discussed this last year. A Lutheran pastor wants to join us. We are still discussing it." Liz hears from the group that the abbreviated formation is available for anyone regardless of how long they have been in the Church. Joan says the first time she entered an Episcopal Church she knew that she was meant to be an Episcopalian. She began TSSF formation and was called to the diaconate soon thereafter. Masud said, "Can we say at least a year?" People vary. Some are more fully formed as a Christian than others. That's already in the Statutes about Transfers. The feeling is that one year, concurrent with the shortened formation period for Transfers is adequate Episcopal/Anglican Church membership by Consensus.
8. Update from Janet and Jeff on talking with John Hebenton moving forward with Sacred Ecology. Janet talked with John Hebenton about Sacred Ecology and all provinces. John wants to talk about it at the Ministers Meeting in August. Jeff will be presenting. John wants everyone to be there in person to discuss it. Peter said we can begin this on the fellowship level here first. Janet said that way we will have some experience to bring to the table. Jeff had to leave the meeting at 8:45. Peter says we need direction from you on how to present this to fellowships. Jeff said does this mean we begin talking about it with Peter? Janet said yes. We will schedule a ZOOM meeting. Janet said this is all related to Jeff's presentation at Chapter and where we go with it next. Alison says her fellowship is host of Western Convocation and she had thought about inviting Jeff. Jeff said there was a recognition at Chapter of how many countries are involved in our Province, but we are facing a global crisis and we are a global order so it is bottom up and top down both. We want to not do this ONLY in our province. Jeff sees that happens often in the Anglican Communion. Janet suggests people call Jeff with questions.

9. No one can take your place. Chapter Nominations letter Janet thanked Masud, Millicent and Joan and asked everyone to look at all brothers and sisters to consider nominations.

10. Other Business Masud said we have had the gift of Joan Verret on the Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity almost from the beginning, but she has other commitments now and is ready to rotate off the committee. Joyce Wilding has agreed to come on Joint Committee. She brings a great gift of experience with ecumenical, social justice, and environmental work. The Joint Commission is looking into how to expand into other countries.

Rick closed with prayer and the meeting adjourned at 8:49.

**Action Items** – Janet will arrange for the December minutes to be posted on the TSSF website after Verleah has made the two necessary corrections. In February we will check back with the Companions Secretary for the mailing list. Alison will add the Companions Fund to her Bursar Report in the future. Although it is not part of our budget it will appear in the report along with the Medical Mission Fund. Rick Simpson will notify Dianne Lowe that she has been approved for profession. There will be further reports on the progress being made to develop a protocol by the “Is This the Time?” team. Janet and Liz will write something up for all to review on changing “Our Rule” on the website and the formation materials to require to “Eucharist on Sundays and Principal Feast Days where possible.” For those whose time in formation is shortened because they are transfers from another order, their time in the Episcopal Church is likewise shortened. Sacred Ecology will be presented by Jeff at the Ministers’ Meeting in August. In the meantime Jeff will talk with Peter about how to present Sacred Ecology to fellowships. They will talk about it via ZOOM meeting which will include Jeff, Janet, and Peter.