

Approved by Chapter, March 26, 2019

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

Minutes of the Conference Call of February 26, 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, Tracey Fiore Carroll, Janet Fedders, Celso Franco De Oliveira, Verleah Kosloske, Liz Peacock, Millicent Ramcharan, Rick Simpson, Peter Stube, and Masud Syedullah Alison Saichek joined us at 8:14. Jim Hagen was also on the call in the beginning.

Excused: Phil Geliebter, Jeff Gollither, Jotie Noel, and Joan Verret

Janet Fedders, Minister Provincial, greeted everyone on the call while members gathered. There being a quorum, she called the meeting to order at 8:02 pm EST.

Janet opened the meeting with prayer.

1. January minutes were approved as corrected by consensus
2. Bursar. The pie charts give a good picture. A lot is spent on meetings and travel, partly because we are so dispersed. There will be a new section on the website called FAQ, one item of which will be graphic description of where our money goes.
3. Growth in our Hispanic Ministry. We now have 36 people involved in nine different countries. There are 14 postulants in 9 countries, 11 novices in 6 countries, and 11 professed in 5 countries. Recently we added six new postulants in Guatemala and El Salvador. In El Salvador it was the two people the bishop had appointed to help the Third Order get started there. We have a total of about 505 members in the 2019 directory; about 10 percent are in Brazil, 7 percent are in Canada, 6.5 percent in the West Indies, 7 percent in Spanish-speaking countries and 69.5 percent are in the USA. Jim met with the bishop in Guatemala who had just returned from a series of administrative meetings where the bishop had a sense that spirituality was missing. The bishop wants TSSF to lead the diocese in a sense of spiritual renewal. That is to be centered in a series of events at the end of August and beginning of September this year. Our people there will be working with others on this. This is a chance for some of us to switch gears from promotion to serving the church. Whatever happens in terms of interest in TSSF will be a gift of this spiritual leadership. Because we are growing in Spanish-speaking countries Barbara Bennett and Jim say it is time to recruit additional help. There are several methods of formation; it done in groups in Guatemala but others who are in isolation are urged to seek out companions. Barbara is now talking to

a number of people in North, Central, and South America to help us be more effective in the formation process. The progress is slow, but leaves room for the Holy Spirit. Members of Chapter are now receiving the weekly Tercera Orden news in English and Spanish. Janet says the prayer cell has been actively praying for your ministry and we may be seeing the fruit of their prayer. Jim said eventually the whole province will experience new life with new people, new languages, and new cultures. Jim Hagen left the meeting at this point.

4. Pray for the Lambeth Conference All the religious orders were asked to pray for the Lambeth Conference outside the meetings. Janet will ask Terry Rogers to organize this as she did last time. We will have places to stay if you want to join those praying in England, but you will have to pay for your travel. The dates are online at the Lambeth Conference website.
5. Profession reviews – Liz Peacock, Formation Director
Luigi Battista was previously professed in another Order, due to the recent changes concerning transfers he is now eligible for profession. Approved by CONSENSUS
Jeff Bonner. Approved by CONSENSUS
Dennis Fish. Approved by CONSENSUS
All three of these are in their 40s or thereabouts. Derek Larson is putting together a group of youngish members to talk with each other regularly. Please give them our congratulations and tell them how excited we are to have them professed.
6. JPIC is going through transformation. A couple of months ago Linda King Watkins asked whether there was a reason to continue. The group came together and they are full of energy and dedication. The members are Linda King Watkins, Tom Mariconda, Dianne Aid, Francesca Wigle, Lynn Herne, Susan Valdes Dapena, and Verleah Kosloske. The younger people, Janet hears, are looking to plug in to social action. There is a prayer cell for JPIC.
7. The Ministers Meeting will be at the Cenacle Retreat Center on Long Island in August. All the ministers plan to attend – John Hebenton, Michael Twum-Darko , Godfrey Fryar , Jamie Hacker Hughes, Blair Matheson, and Janet Fedders. Some are bringing their wives. Christopher John may also be able to attend. Janet has asked that the IPTOC on going formation questions from our Province be put on the agenda with Peter Stube presenting and Jeff Gollither presenting our sacred ecology ideas. Jeff is excited about a global approach to our climate change efforts. We will also be reporting on our rule experiment, rewriting our rule according to the Principles. Let Janet know of anything you think should be on the docket.
8. Rule Experiment next steps We will be collecting data in the spring and will be able to report results of our findings to the Ministers Meeting in August.

9. Chapter Nominations update Thus far 26 people have nominated 14 people. Nominations close April 1. The ten nominees with the most nominations plus any additional nominations offered by the Standing Committee to achieve balance will be on the ballot which will go to the professed in April. The Caribbean is still working on finding a replacement for Millicent.

10. Other Business

Desires for mentoring – Professed tertiaries would like some kind of mentoring, one on one, with other professed tertiaries, such as learning from Celso about work with the homeless. John Rebstock says he is ready to look at this idea. Janet welcomes ideas on how it would play out and how to do it. Rick likes the original Jubilee Ministries ideas of linking people around the church doing similar things. Dianne Aid was part of that and she is an example of an activist who might be a great mentor.

Millicent says in Trinidad the bishop has been appointing TSSF members to help others serving the church to develop a rule of life. Their bishop has been pushing this and is looking to TSSF for help. Celso said that we have been together last week here in Rio preparing for our September retreat and praying for it. We decided to meet every month to prepare for the retreat. There is strong interest in a mission to people living on the street. Janet is planning to attend the September retreat/meeting along with her husband.

Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity. There will be a conference in St. Louis in May. Joyce Wilding has joined the committee, replacing Joan Verret. Joyce is preparing to give a presentation. There are now five Franciscan communities since the Order of Franciscans of Reconciliation (OFR), part of Ecumenical Catholic Communion joined most recently. The Order of Lutheran Franciscans and OFR give us a broad experience of Franciscan charisms. This will be the largest conference so far. Along with the two representatives of each of the 5 orders, there are 5 other members of each order invited. Masud now has 4 TSSF members and is looking for the 5th. He's looking for people who are geographically near.

Janet said that we are looking to establish a bishop protector for Canada. Jotie is helping with this. The Canadian church has just established a committee for religious orders, so we need a bishop protector to have a presence there.

Masud said that the National Association of Episcopal Christian Communities (NAECC) is also coming up in May. We are having a crisis of having enough space for the group. The person who secured the place we will be meeting in Racine WI did not anticipate the possibility of Christian communities growing. There is not enough space so we are looking at DeKoven House as a spillover. There are quite a few new Christian communities that have emerged and are seeking House of Bishops imprimatur so we will have more communities than ever. The conventual orders are fading so this is a

surprise to them. Already we must consider whether we will have enough space for our meetings in 2020 and 2021. We currently have about 60 persons coming. The interest in involvement in Christian communities is growing In the Episcopal Church.

Tracey asks prayers as her family is moving to Longview, TX where her husband has been called to be Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church.

Rick closed with prayer and the meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Action Items – Janet will arrange for the January minutes to be posted on the TSSF website after Verleah has made the necessary correction. Liz Peacock and Rick Simpson will notify Luigi Battista, Jeff Bonner, and Dennis Fish that they have been approved for profession. Janet will ask Terry Rogers to organize prayers at Lambeth Conference.