

ONGOING EDUCATION/FORMATION COMMITTEE (OEFC)

MINUTES – MEETING #45

Tuesday, September 24, 2013
Chicago Province Center – Techny, Illinois

Present: Jim Bergin, Kathy Borresen, Jim Braband (Chair), George Gawlik, Dan Holman, Mark Weber
Excused:

The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. with a prayer led by Jim Braband.
The Minutes of the previous meeting held on April 9, 2013 were reviewed and will stand as issued.

1. STUDY DAY #14 LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP: EVALUATION REPORT
(Attachment: Chicago Province Study Day #14 – Leadership Workshop Evaluation Summary)
Overall the participants' evaluations were very favorable. Thus, the committee's discussion focused on the difficulties encountered with planning for this dual-event as well as what the future will be for this yearly event (Study Day).
2. STUDY DAY #14 LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP: EXPENSE REPORT
(Attachment: Local Superiors Meeting – SVD Leadership Workshop Expenses)
Due to the duality of this gathering, the Provincial Office and the Education Office had agreed to specific expenses each Office would cover. Nonetheless, K.Borresen reported that the Education Office was over-budget on this event and this too will be taken into account when planning for the next Study Day.
3. STUDY DAY OVERVIEW: 1992 TO 2013
(Attachment: Study Day Overview – USC)
J.Braband distributed a list of the Study Days held to date. The listing included dates, speakers, number of attendees, and the topics. It was pointed out that Study Day was instituted as a way of expanding on Generalate documents and mandates; and that perhaps the current Study Day model is not the best way to do this. Further discussion on the feasibility of another Study Day will be on the agenda for the next OEFC Meeting.
4. PROVINCIAL LETTER REGARDING THE ONGOING EDUCATION / FORMATION REPORT
(Attachment: May 13, 2013 Provincial Letter to Rev. James Braband, SVD)
The committee appreciated the letter of appreciation and will continue to provide the Province with outstanding education and formation opportunities.
5. ONGOING EDUCATION REPORT FOR FY 2012-13
(Attachment: History: Ongoing Education / Formation Grants)
 - 5.1 Expenditures for FY 2012-13
K.Borrsen explained that grant expenses were over budget by one percent.
 - 5.2 Number of Grants for FY 2012-13
It was noted that the number of individual grants issued was slightly more than the previous year; while grants for group events were less than half of the previous year's.

6. ONGOING EDUCATION REPORT FOR FY 2013-14

6.1 Budget for FY 2013-14

K.Borresen explained a few points regarding the budget. One, that the amount budgeted for individual grants has remained the same. The other, that the amount budgeted for group events has been doubled as it is anticipated that two group events will take place during the fiscal year.

6.2 Expenditures as of September 20, 2013

At three months into the fiscal year, more than half the budget for individual grants has been issued. K.Borresen is aware of this as it concerns the budget but as yet it is not a concern.

6.3 Number of Grants Issued and Anticipated as of September 20, 2013

Whereas the monies already disbursed for grants has increased significantly, the number of grants which that money is covering has not. This may be an indication that ancillary costs (travel and room and board) to attend an event are on the increase. K.Borresen will watch this to see if there is a trend or explanation.

It was also discussed that the distinction between an ongoing education/formation grant and a professional education grant will be more clearly maintained. At this point a list of the grants issued was passed around for review and reference.

7. ONGOING EDUCATION PRESENTATION AT LOCAL SUPERIORS' MEETING

K.Borresen gave a brief synopsis of her 15 minute presentation during the Local Superiors' Meeting. The presentation included a history of the Education Office's website, how the Education Office disburses grants, a review of the Study Days and Finance Seminars held over the years, and accomplishment of the OEFC.

8. ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT REPORT (FY 2012-13)

It was reported by K.Borresen that more AAS submissions were required this year than last and that the majority of Statements have been turned in. Only seven remain outstanding. It is anticipated that the program will be completed by the end of October. This is an earlier completion date than in year's past.

9. SAVING VALUABLE DOLLARS # 6 OCTOBER 7-9, 2013

(Attachment: Memo regarding SVD #6 Website Notices)

Dariusz Garbaciak joined the meeting at this point to review the status of this upcoming event. The registration number for the seminar stands at 23, which is a little disappointing. Some points discussed were that the seminars should be viewed by the SVDs as a tool to enable them to do their pastoral work and that the topics presented are a reality of parish life. There should be more (enthusiastic) attendance.

10. FOLLOW-UP: ITEM # 7 FROM THE APRIL 19, 2013 OEFC MEETING REGARDING THE CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP PROGRAM, *GOOD LEADERS, GOOD SHEPHERDS*

It was agreed at the April meeting that this was a commendable program albeit very expensive. The program is usually contracted by an archdiocese or group of local parishes. To attend, an SVD would have to be within the archdiocese, parish group, etc. Similar programs are also available. Refer to the next agenda item.

11. MISCELLANEOUS

11.1 USC Mentor Program: Ongoing Discussion

(Attachments: Mentor Program Proposals from the Institute for Priests and Presbyterates and the Catholic Leadership Institute)

The two proposals received on a mentoring program, one from the Institute for Priests and Presbyterates and the other from the Catholic Leadership Institute, were reviewed and discussed. Overall, both were

found very expensive and the committee felt that the SVDs could do better with developing their own mentoring program—one specifically designed with the SVD mission and perspective at its core. With that in mind, the committee agreed that a mentor program should be developed in-house. Further consideration of this issue will be given at another time.

11.2 Study Day Schedule Recommendation: Tuesday-Friday Schedule vs. Thursday-Saturday Schedule

The committee discussed and ultimately agreed that both schedules have their pros and cons. It was emphasized that the Thursday through Saturday schedule has a longstanding, successful history. While on the other hand, the Provincial has expressed a preference for the Tuesday through Friday schedule. The schedule for future Study Days remains undecided.

11.3 Funding Parish Prophetic Dialogue and Similar Province-Sponsored Events

J.Braband and K.Borresen explained that although the Education Office is willing to fund such events (applicable to SVD members only) the difficulty is that the events are not properly budgeted for in a timely manner nor would the Education Office have the ability to control these expenses. It was agreed by the committee that Parish Prophetic Dialogues would continue to be funded through the Province Office or other sources.

It was also discussed that the Education Office does not allocate \$2,000 for every SVD. Rather, the money available (budgeted) is based on a set number of grants at an average cost that will be issued each fiscal year. Members applying for ongoing education/formation funding, however, are limited to \$2,000 per fiscal year. This does not mean that every SVD has been budgeted for and is entitled to \$2,000.

12. NEXT MEETING

The next OEFC Meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at the Province Center from 10:00 a.m. until Noon.

The meeting concluded at 11:50 a.m.
Minutes recorded by: Kathy Borresen

cc: T. Ascheman, SVD

Note: The attachments listed in these minutes were distributed to OEFC members only.