



NRVC Upper Midwest Minutes

Meeting held via Zoom

Oct 31, 2023

Present: ; Sr. Carmella Luke, OSB, MAC; Mr. Greg Darr, MAC Emeritus; Bro. Larry Schatz FSC, MAC; Sr. Joseph Marie, Isp., Sr. Marilyn Mark, OSB; Sr. Katherine Mullin, V.H.M.; Sr. Stephanie Spandl, SSND; S. Lorraine Schmaltz, PBVM; S. Sharon Altendorf, PBVM; S. Lisa Maurer, OSB and Br. Juan Manuel Hernandez-Bernal, FSC

Minutes: Minutes from the meeting held May 17, 2023, were approved. Motion made and seconded by S. [Stephanie Spandl, SSND](#) and Mr. Greg Darr.

1. Welcome was made by Br. Larry and prayer was led by S. Carmy.
2. Introductions of the participants were made.
3. A budget report was given. We currently have \$1,951.63 in our Member Area account.
4. A discussion was held about topics and presenters for a Zoom meeting in February or early March 2024. Some ideas discussed were interculturality or working with young adults. Possible speakers or panelists that were mentioned included the Youth Advisory Board of NFCYM or the Springtide Young Ambassadors. The group was open to the possibility of having a meeting together with the Heartland Member Area. Br. Larry will speak with the Heartland MACS about this. It was suggested that we might have a daylong meeting with a presenter in the morning and a business meeting in the afternoon. No date or topic was chosen.
5. Convocation 2024 was discussed. The theme is, Walking Humbly Together, and the logo was revealed recently by NRVC. Members were asked to consider possible ideas for sponsorships for the Convocation and to get this information to Phil Loftus at NRVC.
6. Members agreed to give a sponsorship donation of \$500 to help with the cost of the convocation. This money will be taken from our Member Area account.
7. Discussion was held on the possibilities for the excursion day on Nov. 4th, following the convocation. Greg Darr presented the idea of going to St. John's Abbey and St. Benedict Monastery for the day. This was seen as a more feasible option than the Native American narrative event which was previously considered. Discussion was had on how this day may look and the various activities that could be done at each location. This excursion would be limited to 50 people.

8. A review of the following responsibilities for the Upper Midwest Member Area concerning convocation took place.
 - a. The MACS and the members of the hosting Upper Midwest area will welcome the participants.
 - b. Identify a local charity for the collection and invite a representative to Convocation. This can be discussed at our next meeting.
 - c. All members are asked to contact Phil Loftus with sponsor ideas and contact information for those entities. Bro. Larry has some ideas for colleges.
 - d. Consider nominations for the Mustard Seed Award- Fr. Toshio and Greg.
 - e. Assists in inquiry about local musicians - S. Dina, as well as S. Stephanie, Greg, and S. Carmy
 - f. Bus excursion for Nov. 4th- possibly Sacred Sites (Dakota People)- S. Sue and Greg
 - g. Sacristan/Liturgical Vessels/ furniture, Wine and Hosts- Fr. Michael and S. Katherine Mullin
 - h. Provide table centerpieces daily and for the banquet/ clears tables/ adds candy- S. Carmy, Sr. Katherine Mullen, and S. Mai-Dung
 - i. Liturgical stage items (cross and ambiance- S. Stephanie, Br. Larry, Sr. Lisa, Sr. Marilyn, and Fr. Michael
 - j. Intercultural Prayer room- S. Mai-Dung , S. Lisa, S. Katherine Marie, S. Marilyn, and Fr. Michael
 - k. Greeters at the hotel on Wed. and Thursday (Two 4 hour shifts)- Fr. Toshio (organizer), S. Katherine Mullin, S. Katherine Marie and Br. Paschal Listi, fsp
 - l. Assist in picking up presenters and presiders to/from the airport - Greg, Sr. Stephanie, and Bro. Larry.
 - l. Speak about NRVC to others - all
9. Other ideas were shared concerning Convocation. These included having a Litany of Founders/Foundresses including visual images. An invitation to all NRVC members to send in images would need to be sent. Archbishop Hebda will be able to attend the convocation.
10. Ideas surfaced for possible charities for the collection taken at the Convocation. Some possibilities brought forth include Theresa Living Center and Caroline Family Services, the Homeless Elders program through the diocese, and the Pathways Homeless Shelter of Yankton, SD. No final decision was made. Please send your ideas for the charity collection to Br. Larry or S. Carmy and we will decide at a later meeting date.
11. Some possible nominations for the Mustard Seed Award were brought forth. They are the University of Mary for its Vocation Jamboree or the Laboure Society. Fr. Toshio and Greg are working on this nomination process.
12. Ss. Dina, Stephanie, and Carmy will begin working in January on the plan for

- music for Convocation. Please forward any names to them of possible volunteers.
13. Discussion was held about possibly creating a discernment weekend for both men and women that might be modeled on the Life Awareness program used in San Antonio.
 14. Discussion was held on the possibility of doing something together as a Member Area during the Eucharistic Congress pilgrimage that will take place in the summer of 2024. S. Stephanie will check on the possibility of this.
 15. A screenshot of the meeting attendees was taken.
 16. The closing prayer was led by Br. Larry.

The meeting was adjourned by Br. Larry Schatz and S. Carmy Luke.

Respectfully Submitted by S. Carmy Luke, OSB.