



## Canonical Stewards Meeting

May 24, 2024

Present for the Zoom meeting were Sr. Ann Barrett, Sr. Mary Ann Dooling, John Grimes, Margaret Hesse, Sr. Peggy Moore, Karen Mortillaro, Eugene Priestley and Erin Valentine. Tom Merkel and James MacLaren could not attend.

Following the prayer the minutes of the March 26, 2024 meeting were approved.

John reported the revised bylaws for Ursuline Dallas and Ursuline Dedham have been approved by their boards and forwarded to the provincial team for their approvals. Once approved, on July 1, 2024, these two academies will officially come under the sponsorship of the UEF. Until this time the provincial team is responsible for the Dedham Identity Assessment and the approval of their board of trustee nominations. The Canonical Stewards will assume responsibility for the local boards of trustees and the heads of schools' evaluations.

A formal transition ceremony in Dallas and in Dedham will be planned for the fall once the schools are back in session. Both Canonical Stewards and provincial team members will be present. Regina suggested that both alumna and donors be invited to the ceremony so they witness stability and a strong, well-planned future for the school.

New presidents are now in place; Laurie Leiva in New Orleans and Stacy Shoulta at Mount Merici. Karen will meet with Laurie to explain the workings of the Mission and Identity office; Sr. Ann will meet with Laurie to explain the UEF. If possible, Eugene will join Sr. Ann at the meeting with Laurie. It is presumed Stacy is well aware of both the UEF and Mission and Identity offices; she has been the Mission Director at Mount Merici and was also at the March Meeting with the Stewards.

The Pathways document has been finalized but is labeled a draft due to certain other issues that still need to be worked out. The draft has been given to the Eastern Province provincial team for their information. They are not expected to respond to the document until after September. The Eastern Province has three academies: in the Bronx and in New Rochelle, NY, and in Wilmington DE. It is known that their school in the Bronx has financial challenges; but since it serves a minority population it is hoped a way can be found to include it.

Karen reported the UA Dedham Identity Assessment Process has been completed and will be reviewed by the provincial team. All five schools have now completed the first phase of

the Identity Assessment process. Karen will summarize and send a year-end review to John and Sr. Ann; Sr. Ann will put it on the portal and send it to the Stewards.

Karen has asked all the heads of schools and mission directors to respond to a survey regarding the Identity Assessment process. The purpose is to see if the schools feel there are other ways they can show their Catholic/Ursuline identity. Karen will work with a committee to revise the process as suggested by the survey results. It is understood the process will have to be a bit broader as other schools begin to join the UEF.

Sr. Peggy reported for the Governance Committee that all school nominees for their local boards of trustees are recommended to the Stewards for their approval. All of the nominees were approved by the Stewards and will be forwarded to the provincial team.

It was noted that there are many alumna/(perhaps alumni at Mount Merici) who are on the local boards of trustees and that outside expertise is also a value. The parents of present students are no longer on the boards, this is an expectation going forward.

Regina said that UA Dedham has a President's Advisory Group that includes people who have an interest in supporting Catholic education but not the time to sit on a board. Their business expertise and financial support has been very significant. She also asked the Governance Committee to think about succession plans and possible sharing of personnel by the schools.

John reported for the Finance Committee that the committee reviewed the 2024-25 budgets for the Mission and Identity office and the UEF office as provided by Karen and Sr. Ann. There is a slight increase in salaries etc. but otherwise the budget is very similar to the 2023-24 budget. The 2024-25 budget was approved by the Stewards.

It was noted that once other schools join the UEF there will necessarily be significant changes in future budgets. Work on a plan for an Endowment Fund should begin in the late summer. Margaret is in conversation with Tom Buckley of the Archdiocesan Finance Office regarding the status of the UEF becoming a 501c3 as well as its inclusion in the Kenedy Directory.

Margaret gave the report on the work of the Mission Committee. The committee has been focused on three responsibilities; the Identity Assessment process, the Annual Letter to Rome and formation plans for the Stewards.

The committee will begin working on the Annual Letter in late November and have the draft available to the stewards for their meeting in January. It is expected the letter will be sent to Rome by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Sr. Mary Ann and Karen will soon begin working on formation plans for the Stewards; both for new Stewards and for all Stewards at the beginning of each Canonical Steward meeting.

The book *Leadership from the Heart* by Mary Cabrini Durkin will be given to all Stewards to be used for discussion at each meeting.

The amended bylaws for the UEF civil corporation were introduced and approved by the Stewards. Officers for the civil corporation were also approved: John Grimes as chair, Regina Sullivan as secretary and Sr. Mary Ann Dooling as treasurer.

The suggestion was made for the stewards to occasionally meet with their local head of school. This would just be an opportunity for sharing as all need to remember the stewards represent all schools, not just the one in their area. After today's meeting John will send an email to the heads to keep them up to date regarding the work of the Stewards.

The Canonical Council, Stewards and heads of schools, will meet in St. Louis on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

The next meeting of the Canonical Stewards will be Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm central time.

Submitted by

Sr. Ann Barrett, osu

Decisions:

The minutes of the March 26, 2024 meeting were approved

The amended UEF civil bylaws were approved.

The officers of the UEF civil corporation were approved.

The nominees for local boards of trustees were approved.

The 2024-25 budget for the UEF was approved.