



**Ursuline Education Foundation
Sponsors Council Meeting
January 19, 2024**

Present for the Zoom call meeting were Sr. Ann Barrett, Sr. Mary Ann Dooling, John Grimes, Margaret Hesse, Karen Jakuback, Gretchen Kane, Kate Levesque, James MacLaren, Sr. Peggy Moore, Karen Mortillaro, Stacy Shoulta, Peggy Slater, and Erin Valentine. Regina Sullivan could not be present due to a broken water pipe in her home that morning.

John opened the meeting by thanking everyone for their continued commitment to the Ursuline Education Foundation and by welcoming Stacy Shoulta, the interim head of school at Mount Merici. Karen Mortillaro then offered the opening prayer.

John first gave a general overview of the UEF at this time. He thanked everyone for their work on the task force committees and pointed out 2024 will be a busy year with the transition in the spring. A smooth transition from the provincial team to the UEF is planned for and the establishment of the Finance, Mission and Government Committees will help this transition happen.

It was noted there will be changes in the leadership of the schools; Gretchen Kane will be resigning from Ursuline Academy in Dallas and Karen Jakuback will be resigning from Ursuline Academy in New Orleans. Andi Shurley who is presently the principal in Dallas will become the president; the president for Ursuline New Orleans will be announced in a couple of months.

Ursuline Academy of Kirkwood just celebrated their 175th anniversary and Ursuline Academy of Dallas just celebrated their 150th anniversary. Ursuline Academy of New Orleans is now planning for its 300th anniversary in 2027.

Formation for the stewards will continue to be very important and the stewards were encouraged to read the article *Ministerial Public Juridic Person: Model for Canonical Governance* which is on their portal. This article will be emailed to the

presidents. Formation for the local boards of trustees will also be important as new trustees come on these boards.

The importance of beginning an endowment fund was also emphasized so as to reduce the financial burden this is placing on the schools. Each year the provincial team asks the schools to contribute to the support of the Mission and Integration Office and the UEF Office. As the contribution increases each year this becomes more of a challenge for the schools to meet; setting up an endowment fund is a priority.

The intent for the future is to have 12 stewards with a reasonable rotation and representation across the country. Normally steward candidates will be suggested by the presidents of the schools, screened and approved by the canonical stewards and then advanced to the provincial team for their due diligence and approval. The selection process is a two-step process intended to be rigorous so as to assure quality stewards. Candidates will be nominated in the fall with final approval in January. It was suggested the duties and responsibilities of the canonical stewards be published and available as a resource for the presidents to consider candidates. These are presently in the *Cultivating the Vine* document and will be reviewed and revised as necessary by the Mission Committee and then given to the Government Committee for implementation.

Time was given for a discussion about the upcoming March meeting in Dallas. The presidents were asked to send questions, concerns, issues to Sr. Ann who will collate them and make them available to all prior to the meeting. It is important to the stewards that the schools have a comfortable and appreciative relationship with the stewards; the stewards wish to be valuable contributors to the school.

There will be two meetings for the UEF in Dallas on Tuesday morning the 26th. The first meeting will be the canonical stewards, the presidents, the principals and the mission directors together. The second meeting will be just the stewards and presidents. There is also a dinner everyone will attend together on Monday evening.

Once this general overview was completed the minutes of August 18, 2023 and December 1, 2023 were approved. The officers were also approved, they are John Grimes as chair, Regina Sullivan as secretary and Sr. Mary Ann Dooling as treasurer. Committee assignments were also approved, they are attached.

The next order of business was to approve two candidates as Canonical Stewards. Approval was given to Tom Merkel who has been, among other things, a parent, a Board of Trustee member of Ursuline Academy of Dallas and the chair of this board of trustees. Tom will replace Win Bell who has resigned from the Sponsors Council.

Approval was also given for Eugene Priestly to be considered as a canonical steward. Eugene has been, among other things, a parent, a member of the Ursuline Academy of New Orleans Board of Trustees and chair of this board of trustees. John will now forward their names to the provincial team for their consideration and approval.

Megan Hobson, a former member of the UEF Board of Directors, was also named as a consideration for canonical stewardship. Megan has indicated her willingness for this now even though she did not have the time for it a year ago. She is on her last term as a member of the Board of Trustees of Ursuline Academy of Dedham so special consideration will have to be given to this.

Each year, in February, a special letter is sent to Rome to the dicastery at the Vatican that oversees the mpjp status of the UEF. The letter details and certifies how the UEF has fulfilled its responsibilities over the past year. Margaret and Srs. Ann and Mary Ann will have this document completed next week and sent to all for their comments/suggestions. It will then be given to the provincial team for their final approval and signature.

The next meeting of the Sponsors Council will be March 25-26 in Dallas. In the meantime, focus will be on the work of the committees.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by

Sr. Ann Barrett, osu