

**Minutes of the Annual General Assembly
Faith and Sharing Federation
Pickering, Ontario
September 8, 2019 at 7 p.m.**

Presided by Jean Roy, French-speaking coordinator and Claire Donovan, English-speaking coordinator.

Attendees: See list attached.

1. OPENING SONG

The meeting was opened by a song.

2. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

According to section 4 of our By-Law No 1, a quorum at any meeting of the members shall be eight (8) members entitled to vote at the meeting. If a quorum is reached at the opening of a meeting of members, the members present may proceed with the business of the meeting, even if a quorum is not maintained throughout the meeting.

The quorum is met.

3. READING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Jean Roy proposes the adoption of the agenda. Claire Le Blanc seconds the motion. All in favour. The motion is carried.

4. REPORT FROM THE FRENCH-SPEAKING NORTH AMERICAN COORDINATOR

Jean Roy is doing the report.

In 2018 Jean Roy visited all the French communities except for Rouyn-Noranda.

For the 50th anniversary of Faith and Sharing, people were invited to write about the beginning of Faith and Sharing in the April 2018 issue of the Heart to Heart bulletin, and about its fruits in the October 2018 issue. All communities participated. Communities were also invited to visit each other. Quebec visited Sherbrooke and vice versa. Montreal visited Valleyfield and vice versa.

We had a new English-speaking coordinator over a year ago in the person of Claire Donovan. So the NA committee organized its annual meeting and the AGA on Vancouver Island in August 2018.

In 2019 we prepared the NA retreat which is happening now.

Communities commemorated Jean Vanier's passing.

Bernard Menard is organizing a celebration for Jean Vanier's life on September 28, 2019 at Cap de la Madeleine, Trois-Rivières, QC. He's inviting people from L'Arche, Faith and Light and Faith and Sharing.

There are signs that Jesus brings life to the communities.

5. REPORT FROM THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING NORTH AMERICAN COORDINATOR

Claire Donovan made the report.

Claire Donovan has been the English-speaking coordinator for the last year and a half.

She's been involved with F&S for many years.

Maggie Walsh, who was the English-speaking coordinator at the time, asked Claire if she would be the coordinator. She joyfully accepted.

She went to the Cleveland retreat in 2018 to connect and know them.

For the 50th anniversary of Faith and Sharing, letters and cards were exchanged between communities.

Claire noted that distance is a challenge for the English-speaking communities considering they are located from the east coast to the west coast of North America and from Florida down south to Toronto up north.

6. NEWS FROM LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Claire Donovan invited people from the different communities to present their community.

Cleveland, Ohio - Five people from Cleveland are present at the retreat. Rose Weigl mentioned their annual retreat was animated by Fr. Dan Schlegel. The theme was "Grace in the Midst of brokenness". Life is busy for Father Jim O'Donnell and Sister Maggie Walsh, two well-known community leaders. More people are now getting involved in Faith and Sharing. They had a mass for Jean Vanier following his death; it was a celebration of his life.

Detroit, Michigan - Patricia Mueller is the only member at the retreat. She's been with F&S for over 40 years. F&S in Detroit started by a priest from Detroit going to a F&S retreat in Windsor. The following year this priest offered a F&S retreat in Detroit. That is how the F&S community started. Patricia described the community as aging, fragile, declining and downsizing. At this point, they have one day of recollection in the summer on a Saturday. They have around 20 people attending. There is a possibility that the F&S will be dissolved.

Jacksonville, Florida – two people attended the retreat. Guillermo Santamaria presented the community. He noted that there is a page on the F&S web site about Jacksonville Faith and Sharing. They have a retreat once a year in summer at Camp St-John at the Marywood retreat centre. Their last retreat was from the May 17 to 20, 2019.

Toronto, ON - Patrick Treacy introduced the group present at the retreat. They celebrated in 2018 the 50th anniversary of the first retreat by Jean Vanier that took place at Marylake. Since then they had their F&S retreats at this location (except for one year).

Unfortunately, there are now problems with accessibility and it is very difficult to find a new location. They did not have a summer retreat in 2019. However, the Advent and Lent meetings are maintained.

The members are spread out through the Greater Toronto. They keep contact with phone calls and emails.

Vancouver Island - Three people are present at the retreat. Claire Donovan explains that during their retreat, on the Thursday they invite people to come and visit. One regular visitor is Michael Hryniuk from Toronto. She asked Michael to come and introduce F&S Vancouver Island. Michael made three points: 1) the community is showing joy 2) a new generation of leaders are

stepping up in leadership roles and 3) 3 hidden springs to give life to Vancouver Island F&S: a) l'Arche in Comox which is well connected to the F&S community b) Bethlehem retreat center has been supporting F&S retreats and c) the church leaders are well connected to F&S. This community shows a real love of Jesus,

French-speaking communities

Rouyn-Noranda, QC - Carmel Thériault came from Rouyn-Noranda alone. The community is aging. Another member passed away. There are 4 or 5 members left. The retreat is held in April each year. Although the group is small, they continue believing in Faith and Sharing. Faith and sharing is a gift of God for today's Church.

Montréal, QC - Three members attended the retreat. Max Saint-Louis introduced them. Max is the coordinator since 2016. It is an aging community. Mary Munroe, the previous coordinator, is Max's advisor. The group is based at Côte des Neiges parish and is well organized. Although aging, the members are young at heart as demonstrated by their songs and dance. The presence of the disabled members galvanize the group. Max is willing to continue.

They meet once a month and hold a three-day retreat during summer.

Québec City, QC - Huguette and André Rousseau are the two members from Quebec City at the retreat.

They started by naming and honouring their members deceased during the year and gave news of other members.

It is difficult to find people willing to take over the responsibilities of those in charge.

They hold monthly meetings and still have a yearly retreat in August which is opened to anyone.

Valleyfield, QC - Julie Prigent is the only member at the retreat, and the coordinator of the community.

They meet once a month. They just celebrated the 45th anniversary of the community. The bishop, Mgr Noël Simard, was present and celebrated the mass for the occasion. He was also present at Christmas and the last meeting of the year.

Their meetings are brightened by a small group of musicians.

The community is aging. However, the members are close to one another, they are like a family. They support each other by calling and praying for one another. Three members passed away in a period of two months.

For the 2019-2020 year, the theme is: Let us take the road together, it is God that leads us.

Sherbrooke, QC - Jean Roy and Clementine are the two members present at the retreat. He spoke for the coordinator Lise Morin. They still have once monthly meetings taking the form of mini-retreats.

Ottawa, ON - Isabelle Frappier introduced the members from Ottawa present at the meeting. Meetings are organized twice a month, on Friday nights, for two hours. No summer retreat is planned for the next year.

Jean Roy introduced Raymonde Doucet from Yarmouth, NS, who is providing the service of music as well as Hortense De Villers from l'Arche in Montréal who's providing the translation service.

Marc Rioux gave a message of hope where he emphasized the love of Jesus and how Jesus must be pleased to see us here all together.

7. REPORT ON THE “HEART TO HEART” BULLETIN FOR 2018 AND ON THE WEB SITE

Jean Roy reported:

The team is located in Sherbrooke, Qc.

Jean explains the content of the bulletin: activities, articles related to the activities, a theme is proposed for each issue. Anybody can write.

We asked every community to write in the last bulletin because of the 50th anniversary of Faith and Sharing. We received something from every community.

We want to make the bulletin available to everyone.

The bulletin comes in paper format or online.

For those who want to receive a notification that the bulletin is available can give their email address to Jean Roy. The same thing for the Heart-to-Heart Express.

Price for the subscription:

Paper copy: \$6 for three years, or support subscription \$5 per year.

Internet: free; a notice is sent via email to advise that the bulletin is available on the website.

Heart-to-Heart Express: free: The Heart-to-Heart Express was created to send short news by e-mail. Anyone can subscribe by going to the website. The objective of the Heart-to-Heart Express is to keep links between communities.

Heart-to-Heart Financial Report:

In 2018, we had around 150 French subscriptions and 90 English, both paper and internet combined. The revenues consist of subscriptions, donations and interest. The expenses are bank charges, printing and mailing expenses. We had a deficit of \$43. Jean noted that the stamp and shipping costs are high, because the two bulletins published in 2018 had more pages, exceptional releases for the 50th. However, thanks to a higher subscription amount, the financial situation remains healthy.

See the financial report and the number of published bulletins attached to the minutes.

Jean provided forms for those who wanted to subscribe to the bulletin and invited people to contribute to the next Heart to Heart bulletin.

8. Song

9. BREAK

10. Adoption of minutes of last AGA

Isabelle Frappier read the minutes of the last annual general assembly. Marc Rioux proposes to adopt and Claire Donovan seconds. All in favour. The motion was carried.

11. Reading and adoption of the 2018-2019 financial report

Isabelle Frappier presented the Financial Statements for the period from May 1, 2018 to April 30, 2019. There was a deficit for the year in the amount of \$1,105 for a resulting equity of \$11,416.

Isabelle Frappier proposes to adopt the 2018-2019 financial report. Rose Weigl seconds the motion. All in favour. The motion is carried.

12. Appointment of an auditor

Isabelle proposes that the obligation to have an auditor be waived for the next year. Carmel Thériault seconds the motion. All in favour. Motion is carried.

13. Ratification of north American committee activities 2018-2019

Gilles Courtemanche proposes to ratify the activities of the board for the past year. Julie Prigent seconds the motion. All in favour. Motion is carried.

14. Other business

No other business was discussed.

15. Last word from our north American Spiritual Guide

Marc Rioux did the closing prayer.

16. Adjournment

Marc Rioux proposes and Suzanne Desrosiers seconds to adjourn the meeting. The meeting ended with the final song.