



# International Federation for a Renewed Catholic Ministry

## *Second Triennial General Assembly*

*Marriott Hotel, Detroit, MI, USA*

*Friday 10 June 2011, 09.00-11.30*

## MINUTES

### 1. Welcome

Simon Bryden-Brook, president, called to order the Second General Assembly of the International Federation for a Renewed Catholic Ministry (IFRCM) on June 10, 2011 at 9 am.

- The president welcomed the executive board, delegates, and observers. Over 35 attendees represented several countries and six member groups of IFRCM.
  - Executive Board members present: Simon Bryden-Brook, Michaelita Quinn, Anthony Padovano, Christine Mayr-Lumetzberger, and William Manseau.
  - Member groups represented: Arbeitsgemeinschaft, Priester, ihre Frauen und Kinder, Austria; Corpus NCR, Canada; Catholics for a Changing Church, UK; Corpus USA; ISASsPTMM, USA; FCM RCFCC, USA; Women's Ordination Conference, USA;
- The president excused the attendance of the Dutch representatives and expressed sadness at the loss of Jack Shea from Canada who died this year. The Dutch representatives and Jack Shea were executive board members.
- The following documents had been sent to all member groups prior to the meeting: agenda, president's report, treasurer's report, financial report, participant list, proposed executive board members, constitution with proposed changes noted, draft of the Dublin Declaration, and proposal for action. These documents are included in the file of the General Assembly.

### 2. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda for the Second General Assembly was presented for approval.

*Motion to accept the agenda made by Bill Manseau. Accepted unanimously.*

### 3. Appointment of Chair and Taking of Minutes

The president offered to chair the meeting and said that Michaelita Quinn was willing to take the minutes, substituting for the current secretary who was unable to attend.

*Agreed.*

4. **Report from the President**

Copies of the report were distributed. The president commented on his report.

- Since no notice was sent to group members requesting payment of dues for 2011, the president proposed that voting at this General Assembly should take place without regard to whether member groups had paid dues. *Agreed. Motion to accept the President's Report made by Bill Manseau. Seconded by Evelyn Hunt. Motion passed.*
- Included in the president's report were statements about the last General Assembly of IFRCM in Vienna in 2008, the meetings of the executive board in Dublin in 2009, and in Utrecht in 2010. He included comments about the Study Day for each of the executive board meetings which connected the board with the local region's reform groups.
- IFRCM has established a website which the president invited all to visit. [www.renewedcatholicministry.org](http://www.renewedcatholicministry.org)
- Reporting on the membership of IFRCM, the president stated that IFRCM now has 10 member groups in seven countries. The criteria for membership needs further discussion as the organization continues to grow.
- The president explained the difficulty of some members of the executive committee to attend board meetings, citing the absence of the Dutch and Australian members. This might require a constitutional change.

5. **Participants Acknowledged**

The president acknowledged the representatives of the group members and observers in attendance at this General Assembly. A paper was passed around requesting all those attending to enter their names and email addresses.

6. **Treasurer's Report**

Since the treasurer Wim van der Velden was not present, the president summarized the Treasurer's Report noting that the IFRCM funds were healthy, estimated at 4800 euros.

- The report included dues from each member group since 2009 when IFRCM was formed.
- A listing of income and expense line-items were included in the report as well as a statement of cash and surplus.
- The treasurer included in his report his resignation saying the proposed new treasurer will assume his responsibilities.

*Motion made by Bill Manseau to accept the Treasurer's Report and financial statements. Seconded by Anthony Padovano. Motion passed.*

7. **Financial: Dues**

To better organize the payment of dues/subscriptions, the following will be done.

- Decisions will be made on the level of annual dues for a calendar year, due date, method of payment, and level of dues for subsequent years.
- The annual dues/subscription has been based on 200 euros unless the group member could not afford this amount.

*Motion made by Bill Manseau to assign the executive board to make decisions regarding each of these items. Seconded by Peter Paul Brennan. Motion passed.*

8. **Constitution Amendments**

The IRFCM Constitution was approved at the first General Assembly in Vienna on November 6, 2008. Several amendments were proposed at this Second General Assembly. Changes are shown in **boldface** below.

- **II. Goals and Membership**  
Discussion occurred about the meaning of “Roman” Catholic and the meaning of “Catholic” as different from, for example, Anglican. Discussion also occurred about including “non-voting observers” in General Assembly meetings. The amendments to this section of the constitution are the following.
  - **II.2 Amendment**  
“The IRFCM is open to all groups **which, in the judgement of the Executive Committee, share essential goals of the Roman Catholic Church.**”
  - **II.3 Amendment**  
“The IRFCM convenes a General Assembly every three years composed of mandated delegates **and non-voting observers** and organizes conferences and seminars open to interested people.
- **III. The General Assembly**  
Discussion occurred about votes by member groups when a voting delegate could not be present at a General Assembly. A proxy vote can be given to a person of the same or another member group. Also, clarification was made about the composition of a quorum at a General Assembly. The amendments to this section of the constitution are the following.
  - **III.1 Amendment**  
“Each member group has three votes in the General Assembly, **which may be cast by one or two voting delegates if three cannot be present at a General Assembly.**”
  - **III.3 Amendment**  
“Changes to the Constitution require a two-thirds vote **of voting delegates present at the General Assembly; at least four weeks’ advance notice shall be given to member groups of such proposed changes.**”

- IV. Officers  
A new article was added to this section of the constitution. It was noted that the method of voting as described in the new article had been used successfully in preparation for this general assembly in Detroit. After the article was read, there was no discussion.
  - **IV.5 New Article**  
**“If, in the opinion of the Executive Committee it is considered desirable, election of officers and members of the Executive Committee shall be conducted by email. Nominations shall be requested at least twelve weeks before the date of the General Assembly to be submitted to the Secretary at least eight weeks before the General Assembly. The Secretary shall then circulate the list of candidates to all member groups at least six weeks before the assembly to be returned to the Secretary two weeks before the General Assembly. Each member group shall be entitled to three votes for each position on the Executive Committee and shall clearly indicate on the voting papers how these votes are to be distributed.”**

*Motion made by Evelyn Hunt to adopt all Amendments [above] as discussed and decided. Seconded by Christine Mayr-Lumetzberger. Passed unanimously.*

- V. Executive Committee  
Discussion occurred about whether to limit the number of Executive Committee members who are without portfolio/directors at large. The Amendment to this section is shown below.
  - **V.1 Amendment**  
**“The Executive Committee consists of the holders of the four offices and an appropriate number of persons at large/without portfolio, as proposed by the Executive Committee, elected by the General Assembly.”**

*Motion made by Bill Manseau to expand the number of at large members. Seconded by Michaelita Quinn. Motion passed.*

## 9. **Election of Officers and Board Members**

A slate of officers who had been nominated and endorsed by the executive committee was presented for vote by the General Assembly. Based on the V.1 Amendment (above), a nominee for an additional open position was proposed for the committee members at large/without portfolio.

*Nomination made by Evelyn Hunt that Kate Conmy, the newly appointed Coordinator of Communication for WOC, be added to the board members at large .*

Prior to the presentation of nominees, the current president Simon Bryden-Brook was acknowledged by Anthony Padovano who expressed gratitude to the president for his significant contribution to the IFRCM. The president was acknowledged for his

meticulous preparation of materials for this meeting as well as for being a catalyst for the European Network.

The candidates for the executive committee to take office at this meeting of the second General Assembly is given below.

President:	Simon Bryden-Brook
Vice President:	Christine Mayr-Lumetzberger
Secretary:	Michaelita Quinn
Treasurer:	Liam Deaton*
Without Portfolio/at Large:	Anthony Padovano
	James Noonan*
	Tony MacCarthaigh*
	William Manseau
	Kate Conmy*

\*New members on the executive committee.

*The above Executive Committee was elected by acclamation of the General Assembly.*

10. **Draft 'Dublin' Declaration**

The Draft Declaration for “Renewing Catholic Ministry” was adopted by the executive committee at its meeting in October 2009. The document had been circulated to the IFRCM group members for their comments prior to being presented at this Second General Assembly.

Discussion occurred about the Draft Declaration originating first as an IFRCM “Manifesto”. The Declaration is meant to represent the consensus of reform groups across the world in a single paper. The point was made that much of the Declaration was already in documents/declarations of other reform groups. It was clarified that the intent of IFRCM is to raise the combined statements of other documents to the international level and placing it on the IFRCM website.

*Motion by Bill Manseau to accept the Draft Declaration as written. Seconded by Peter Paul Brennan. Accepted unanimously.*

11. **Criteria for Membership in IFRCM**

This agenda item had been covered in #4 President’s Report.

12. **Relations and Contacts with Other Organizations**

Discussion occurred about the request of a group in Kenya to join IFRCM. Background was given about this group and about the future of Catholicism in South Africa. Gerry Grudzen is to meet with this group for another purpose. The executive committee will review this case after Gerry Grudzen’s comments on his visit.

*This was only an item of information. Therefore, no motion was needed.*

13. **Proposal for Action**

A proposal was presented for IFRCM to engage in a broad strategic planning process.

The assumptions for undertaking this task include the following:

- IFRCM has evolved from an international federation founded over 25 years ago to an even broader international federation renamed and reborn in 2008.
- Organizationally, IFRCM is still in the initial phase of its new development.
- IFRCM must clarify its role as it related to other reform initiatives and groups.

The proposal recommended that the executive committee begin to work on a strategic plan at its next meeting in 2012 and set a goal to present a plan to the General Assembly in 2014.

*The Proposal was accepted by consensus.*

**14. Next General Assembly**

Discussion occurred about suggestions for the location of the next and Third General Assembly. Also, the idea of scheduling the Assembly in the year 2015 in Rome was discussed since 2015 is the anniversary of the closing of Vatican II.

- The Constitution requires that the General Assembly meet every three years. Therefore, the next General Assembly will be in 2014.
- It was proposed that the next General Assembly be held in London.
- A Study Day should be planned to coincide with the Assembly as was the case in Dublin and Utrecht. Several ideas were discussed.

*The General Assembly approved scheduling the Third General Assembly in 2014 in London with the executive committee responsible for the agenda and other details.*

**15. Closing of the General Assembly**

Since the General Assembly in Detroit was meeting in the same room as the annual business meeting of CORPUS which followed, the IFRCM Assembly meeting was suspended to give time for announcements by the president of CORPUS.

**16. Conferral of Doctoral Degree**

As Dean for Global Ministries University, Bill Manseau conferred the Doctoral Degree on Simon Bryden-Brook for completion of the course of study leading to a D. Min. In making his acceptance comments, Simon said he had spent five years completing the requirements. The group assembled for both meetings acknowledged his achievement.

**17. Table Liturgy**

The final item on the IFRCM agenda was a Table Liturgy in which the president invited all to participate. The president commented that he usually celebrates a table liturgy in his home with every meal.

**18. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned approximately 11:30 am.

*Minutes submitted by Michaelita Quinn, Secretary  
July 4, 2011.*

Note:

**Meeting of the Executive Committee**

The executive committee of IFRCM met on June 9, 2011, the evening before the Second General Assembly, at the Detroit Marriott Hotel. The purpose of the meeting was to review the agenda for the General Assembly and finalize details about the Assembly scheduled to meet on June 10, 2011.

Attending that meeting were committee members Simon Bryden-Brook, Anthony Padovano, Bill Manseau, and Michaelita Quinn. Observers were Tom Quinn/USA and Valerie Stroud/UK.