

Minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting, Cleveland, Ohio June 10, 2010

Present: Catherine Clifford (CTSA), Jan Jans (ESCT)

Regrets: Afonso Soares (SOTER)

Minutes of the 2009 Limerick Steering Committee: The minutes were approved by those present; no request for changes has been received.

Financial Report:

We are most grateful that Thomas Fliethmann continues to serve as our financial officer. He has provided a report indicating that our present bank balance stands at 2,426.49 €. Some members may need a second reminder to bring their membership fees up to date.

Thomas has indicated that we lose a good deal on fees for bank transfers and exchange rates. This year we have encouraged member societies to pay in Euros to avoid some of these costs.

It was recommended that at the next meeting of the Network Council, some consideration be given to increasing membership fees (they have not changed in over 10 years), and to listing them in Euros.

As the best solution seems to be to leave our accounts in the hands of a German financial institution, **it was recommended** once again that we try to have a second signing officer. Anne Marie Mayer from Tübingen has indicated a willingness to assist us in this capacity.

It is further recommended that the Statutes be revised at the next Network Council to recognize the role of the Treasurer.

Webmaster's Report:

Jan Verkoyen reports that in the past six months there have been 911 unique visitors to the new INSeCT website. The most frequently visited pages include the regional reports and the pages on African Theology.

Regional Reports:

Last year in Limerick, the Steering Committee took the decision to concentrate on adding a new series of reports to our web site, with a focus on those regions with the highest concentrations of Catholics: Brazil, the Philippines, Mexico, and the United States. We would also look for new contributions to the African page, and explore the possibility of a report from the context of the Roman Schools.

We have now identified contributors for reports from the Philippines (Estella Padilla), from the United States (Vincent Miller), and Rome (James Puglisi). We continue to seek contributors for reports from Brazil, Mexico, and Africa (for South Africa, Susan Rackozy agreed to update her report). As well, we are working to ensure that Latino and Black voices are represented in the American context. We are also waiting for permission to post the Presidential address of Lieven Boeve, from the 2009 Convention of the ESCT, "Catholic Theology at the Crossroads of Academy, Church, and Society."

Membership:

We have recently received an inquiry from the Executive Secretary of EATWOT regarding possible membership. If they decide to make a formal request, a vote on associate membership would be recommended to the next Network Council meeting in June 2011.

We are exploring new contacts with representatives of the Circle of Concerned? African Women Theologians. Both EATWOT and CAWT are ecumenical groups which include the participation of Catholic theologians, many of whom may come from regions where organized societies for Catholic theology have not yet been established.

Planning for International Colloquium, June 14-16, 2011:

De Paul University, Chicago, has graciously accepted to host the next International Colloquium of INSeCT. During the CTSA Convention, the members of the Steering Committee met with Dr. Peter Caserella of De Paul's Centre for Global Catholicism and Intercultural Theology, who is assisting us in preparations for the Colloquium, including the application for grant monies to offset the cost of travel for needy participants.

Presidents of member societies have been invited to contribute suggestions relating to the conference theme, possible speakers, and participants. More detailed information will go out early in the fall.

Communications:

During the CTSA convention, Jan and Cathy made a presentation in a special session of the CTSA program on the work of INSeCT. A small but successful reception was held to meet with past and present delegates to INSeCT from other societies who were present at the convention.

In light of these experiences, we would recommend that in future the practice of such receptions be encouraged, with a brief opportunity for information sharing. This is likely to be more effective than competing against other sessions in the conference program.

