

1 ASSEMBLY ON MISSION

2 Ninth Meeting

3 July 31, 2002

4

5

MINUTES

6

7 John Scudder, Moderator, called the ninth meeting of the District of San

8 Francisco Assembly on Mission to order at 3:25 p.m. The roll was taken by the

9 Tellers. Brother George, General Secretary, reported the following delegates

10 absent: Brother Kenneth Cardwell, Brother Harry Morgan, Marilyn Paquette and

11 Brother Thomas Zoppo.

12

13 The Moderator invited Brother David Brennan to lead the opening prayer.

14

15 The Moderator indicated that there were one proposition and seven reports to be

16 read. He reiterated that reports should be read by individual Delegates on their

17 own. They will then be brought back for discussion at a subsequent meeting.

18

19 Brother Brendan Kneale read proposition # 1 from the Religious Studies,

20 Campus Ministry, Vocation Ministry. In response to questions of clarification, the

21 following points were made:

22 • The Latino Adult Institute is included in the proposition.

23

- 24 • None of the newer schools mentioned in the proposition have ever
25 received funds. When the endowment was set up, only existing schools
26 were included in the Retreat House Endowment. The Office of Education
27 was directed not to provide retreat funds to the new schools.
- 28 • Equal distribution would be the fairest way to distribute funds which is how
29 it is done now.

30

31 Proposition # 4 from the Service of the Poor Committee was read for
32 consideration. The floor was opened for debate. The following issues were
33 brought forward:

- 34 • We already know the needs of the lower valley and encourage the
35 Brothers in Yakima to continue their relationship with Sunnyside. There is
36 a commitment from the Brothers community in Yakima to the students and
37 people of Sunnyside. They are expanding from the van to a bus for
38 transportation of students to La Salle High School and investigating other
39 ways to reach the students, especially those previously enrolled at St.
40 Joseph School.
- 41 • The major decision to withdraw was economic. The challenge was to find
42 individuals or companies who would partner with us in a financial way.
- 43 • Members of the Service of the Poor committee forwarded this proposition,
44 in part, because they desired a General Assembly discussion about this
45 important issue. According to one member of the committee, this is the
46 first time we have walked away from a community because it was too

47 poor. The proposition is a step towards looking at another possibility,
48 given the financial picture - perhaps by using an existing facility which
49 would be a lot less expensive than running a full elementary school.

50

51 Mr. Bill George called the question. Brother Ronald Roggenback seconded.

52 There was no objection. The vote was taken.

53

54 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a community of Brothers, volunteers, and/or Partners be

55 established in the Lower Yakima Valley for the 2003-04 academic year,

56 and

57 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this community investigate the educational

58 needs of families and students in order to establish innovative programs to

59 address those needs, and

60 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this community serve as a witness of the

61 Lasallian family's continued concern for the people of the Lower Yakima

62 Valley.

63

64 In favor: 10 Opposed: 95 Abstaining: 14 Proposition failed.

65

66 Proposition # 2 from the Curricular and Co-Curricular Development Committee

67 was read for consideration. The floor was opened for debate. The following

68 issues were brought forward:

69 • All of the secondary schools do this already in response to the Action
70 Plan. There is no need to adopt a proposition for something already being
71 done.

72 • Teachers have not met on curriculum issues in many years. This
73 proposition is a call to reinstitute subject area teachers' meetings.

74

75 A motion was made by Rudy Schulze to recommit the proposition. The motion
76 was seconded by Brother Thomas Jones.

77

78 Debate on the motion to recommit followed. After some debate, Brother Thomas
79 Jones moved to close the debate on the motion to recommit. Greg Kopra
80 seconded the motion and the debate was closed. The motion to recommit failed
81 by voice vote.

82

83 Debate was re-opened on the proposition in full.

84 • Perhaps before and after National Conventions in various subject areas,
85 the subject area educators of the District could meet.

86 • Opportunities for District-wide workshops are department-based, while
87 others are based on a specific school position. The proposition addresses
88 those outside the box.

89 • The bulk of District's teachers do not feel in association with other schools
90 in the District. The idea of association is missed for hundreds of teachers.

91

92 Mr. Ted Tsukahara called the question. Brother John Montgomery seconded.

93 There was no objection. The vote was taken.

94

95 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the District coordinate, promote and sustain ongoing

96 District-wide forums where Lasallian educators address curricular and co-

97 curricular issues.

98

99 In favor: 113 Opposed: 3 Abstaining: 2 Proposition passed.

100

101 The Moderator stated that Proposition #1 from Religious Studies, Campus

102 Ministry and Vocations Committee has been submitted to the Central Committee

103 as a report.

104

105 Proposition # 2 from the Stewardship Committee was read for consideration. The

106 floor was opened for debate. The following issues were brought forward:

107 • There is no need to reaffirm perpetuity. A school was just closed because
108 of the need to adhere to the perpetuity policy.

109 • Brothers have been doing this since 1995. However, because the
110 proposition is a principle of good stewardship, it was important to bring it
111 before this Assembly and send it on to District Chapter.

112

113 A motion was made by Mike Trafecanty to amend the proposition beginning with

114 line 9 by changing the words to read "... perpetuity as the prime objective for De

115 La Salle Institute and the Benilde Religious International Trust in order to
116 preserve the purchasing power...” The motion was seconded by Steve Taylor.

117

118 Debate on the motion to amend followed. After some debate, Gary Cannon
119 moved to close the debate on the motion to amend. Brother Thomas seconded
120 the motion and the debate was closed. The motion to amend carried by voice
121 vote.

122

123 Debate was re-opened on the proposition in full, as amended.

- 124 • The proposition represents a violation of trust in providence, something
125 that is a central component of our Lasallian heritage.
- 126 • Since the funds that perpetuity is producing are used for mission, the
127 proposition may be seen as a support of that mission.

128

129 Mr. Richard Gray called the question. Brother Edmond Larouche seconded.

130 There was no objection. The vote was taken.

131

132 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Assembly on Mission hereby affirms the principle of
133 perpetuity as the prime objective for De La Salle Institute and The Benilde
134 Religious International Trust in order to preserve the purchasing power of
135 current financial resources considering inflation and other economic
136 factors.

137

138 In favor: 94 Opposed: 20 Abstaining: 3 The proposition passed.

139

140 Proposition # 3 from the Stewardship Committee was read for consideration. The

141 floor was opened for debate. The following issues were brought forward:

- 142 • If effective stewardship was in place Sunnyside would still be open.
- 143 • If there was a time that we had limited resources we wouldn't be looking at
144 new works anyway. You need to have the conviction that you have the
145 likelihood of success in order to be able to maintain your work within the
146 restraints of the money available. The committee had to balance that idea
147 versus the need to take risks.
- 148 • All the works that are serving the mission cost money, and works have to
149 take on some of those costs. The District will not abandon them, but they
150 have to stay within the means of the Benilde Trust.
- 151 • We have to show some faith and confidence in our leaders when they
152 consider new works.
- 153 • During financially difficult times the most needed works of the poorest
154 seem to be the ones that are eliminated.
- 155 • The real mission is to know the will of God. We seem to want safety; we
156 don't want to be challenged or stretched or to worry. However, we have to
157 depend on faith.
- 158 • Concern was voiced about how this proposition would impact the Service
159 of the Poor proposition.

160

161 Brother Lawrence Haley called the question. Brother John Montgomery
162 objected. The vote was taken for those in favor of ending the debate.

163

164 In favor: 91 Opposed: 27 Abstaining: 2 Debate is closed.

165

166 Debate on Proposition #3 from the Stewardship Committee was closed and vote
167 on the resolution as read was called for.

168

169 **BE IT RESOLVED** that while encouragement be given to the District Leadership

170 Team and District Council to consider new opportunities for the

171 educational mission, that in view of limited financial resources, priority be

172 given to insure the viability of existing educational works that are

173 demonstrating effective stewardship at a local level while maintaining the

174 Lasallian mission of providing “a human and Christian education to the

175 young, especially the poor.”

176

177 In favor: 24 Opposed: 85 Abstaining: 9 The proposition failed.

178

179 Mr. Gary Bertolone moved to suspend the orders of the day to 5:15 p.m. Sherie

180 Dodsworth seconded. The motion failed by voice vote.

181

182 The Moderator made two announcements: 1) prayer on Friday August 2nd will be
183 at 8:00 a.m. with the General Assembly meeting at 8:30 a.m., 2) Brother Martin
184 Yribarren will provide an organ concert in the chapel at 7:15 p.m.
185
186 The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.