

**MINUTES OF INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT PASSIONIST RETREAT CENTRE
CUERNAVACA, MEXICO
5TH OCTOBER, 2009 – 9TH OCTOBER, 2009**

Day 1 - 5th October, 2009

ATTENDEES

Executive Committee

- Steve and Claudia Schulz – Louisiana IET
Married 33years – 4 children, 1 married,
Involved in EE since 1978 (not continuous)
Completing 1st term as IET
- Fr Terence Runstedler – IET Priest – Canada
Ordained 25 years EE 24 years one of 11 siblings
Chaplain of 2 hospitals, 2 Catholic and 2 Public schools
- Francis and Annette Wattie – Trinidad and Tobago – International Finance Team
Married 28 years EE 19 years
2 Children 2 Grandchildren
- Fr Frank Power – Jamaica, Priest International Finance Team & Regional Priest for
English Speaking Caribbean.
Ordained 35years EE 5 years
- Ronald and Ursula Sobotker – Cape Town, South Africa – International Statistics Team
Married; 16 years EE: 14years 2 daughters
Presently Southern African Regional Couple
- Fr Rohan Smuts – Cape Town, South Africa – Priest International Statistics Team
Ordained; 10 years EE: 7 years
Presently Southern African Regional Priest
- Cesar and Gilda Tavaréz (Gilda absent)– Dominican Republic – Outline and Resources Team
Married: 33 years 3 sons, 1 grandson EE: 19 years
- Fr. Rafael Cruz – Dominican Republic - Priest Outline and Resource Team
Ordained: 30 years spent 25 years as a parish priest now attached to a Catholic University.
Also coordinator of Family Pastoral Centre in Dominican Republic.

Board Members

- Jose and Barbara Salazar – Trinidad – Coordinators, English Speaking Caribbean, together with Fr Frank Power
Married: 46 years EE: 19 years 5 children, 8 granddaughters
- Bernard and Ginette Charbonneau – Canada – National coordinators
Married: 42 years EE: 17 years 2 sons 3 grandchildren
Completing term as Canadian Regional team with Fr Steve Collins
- Luis and Maribel Cardenas – Mexico – Regional Coordinators
Married: 26 years EE: 16 years 4 children
Completing term as Regional Team in November
- Fr Manolo Castellanos – Mexico, Regional Priest
Ordained: 20 years EE: 12 years
- Fr Marco Garcia Ángeles – Puebla – México - Regional Priest
Ordained: 24 years EE: 20 years
Presently Director of Archdiocesan Newspaper
- Herbert and Monica Rubio – Regional Team Central America and Spanish Speaking Caribbean
Married: 19 years EE: 14 years 3 sons
- Fr Ricardo Bendana Ordained: EE:
- Hugo and Mirtha Laurent – Regional Team South America South
Married 23 years EE: 8 years 2 children
- Valentine and Anna Coelho – Representatives of regional Team for India
Married: 24 years. Helped to start EE in Goa. 5 children
- Antonio and Teresa Folch – Spain – Regional Team – Europe
Married: 33 years EE: 18 years
- Fr Vicente Lopez Milan – Spain
Ordained: 43 years. Theology Professor at University of Valencia also Family Pastoral-Support Retrouville
- Joseph and Teri Kwok – Singapore – Regional Team East Asia
Married 26 years EE: 26 years 8 children
- Herman and Sofy Hurtado – Colombia – Regional Team South America North
Married: 42 years EE: 26 years 2 children

- Fr Gilberto Gomez – Colombia
Ordained: 50 years EE: 31 years
Previously served on Outline Team of ICEE
- Peter and Christine Rawnsley – New Zealand – Regional team Oceania
Married 39 years EE: 20 years 4 children
- Rick and Patty Rupert – USA – National executive Team
Married: 18 years EE:
5 children 11 grandchildren
- Fr Joe Mozer – USA – National Executive Team
Ordained: 12 years EE: 12 years
Works in Marriage Tribunal of Archdiocese of Boston

Observers

- Alfredo and Bati Penaherra – Ecuador
Married: 23 years EE: 12 years 3 children
- Diego and Kathy Vargas – Ecuador
Married: 12 yrs EE: 10 years
- Elder and Olinda Santa Anna – Colombia
Married 46 years EE: 18 years 1 daughter
- Elena and Vicente – Argentina
Married: 32 years EE: 15 years
- Cecilia and Carlos Castro - Mexico – Host Couple
Married: 13 years

Meeting began with arrival of delegates and lunch at 2.00pm.

Opening Mass was celebrated at 4.30pm. Chief Celebrant – Fr Tery Runstedler assisted by Steve and Claudia Schulz

Meeting began at 6.10pm with introductions

The following were clarified

- (1) Question Box. The use was explained by Fr Tery. Due to the packed agenda, questions for Regional Representatives or Committee Members were to be placed in the Question Box

- (2) Observers were welcomed and it was clarified that while they were free to make contributions and ask questions, voting was restricted to Board / Committee members.

The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented.

Blessing before supper was led by Hugo and Mirtha Alcaraz

Session ended with closing prayer led by Steve, Claudia and Fr Tery.

DAY 2 - Tuesday 6th October

Mass celebrated by Fr Rafael Cruz

Meeting started at 9.00am

Minutes of 2008 meeting were approved by the Salazars and seconded by Charbonneaus.

Steve reviewed the policy adopted at Wichita. Based on the new policy

Minutes are to be circulated by 7th November.

Comments are to be sent to the Finance Team by 14th November. **Teams are also to advise if they have no amendments**

Final Minutes would be circulated by 21st November

Minutes of past meetings are available on the ICEE Website.

REGIONAL REPORTS

1) Canada – Presented by Bernard and Ginette Charbonneau

Significant Achievements

Discovered there was \$3,500.00 held in The Bank of Canada in the names of communities which had closed. They were able to recuperate the funds.

Received letters from 5 Bishops from diocese where CEE is operational.

New Leadership Team was discerned at national meeting in August.

A recognition award was instituted this year in two districts to honor anyone who made a Significant contribution in time &/or effort.

Email address for executive team ceecanada@hotmail.com

Canadian National Board voted to donate CANS\$500.00 to ICEE for Expansion.

Challenges

Reduction in number of couples getting married

Collating Statistics was very difficult. Also the statistics form for ICEE is very difficult to complete as the headings does not fit reality.

There is an increasing interest in looking at non-residential weekends to decrease the cost of the experience

Outline Challenges / Suggestions

Need for two day outline

Enrichments to feed the feeder!! How to do this on a tight budget.

MSI talks are still not in all communities.

New Resources Adopted During the Period

Prayer before each talk

Spiritual Music to call couples from break

Power Point before or during presentation

Introduction of Saturday afternoon alternatives

(2 English Speaking Caribbean – Presented By Jose and Barbara Salazar & Fr Frank Power

Countries of Region – Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago
18 weekends were held in 2008 and 10 from Jan to June, 2009

Letters of recommendation was received from 3 Bishops in support of CEE.

Hope to expand to St Lucia and Jamaica next year.

Regional Meeting carded for November in Grenada, during their 25th Anniversary celebrations

Question: “With the ordination of Permanent Deacons, in the Archdiocese of Port of Spain and in the Caribbean how do we see them fitting into our needs?

Answer: See section – Question Box

3) Central America and Spanish Speaking Caribbean – Presented by Herbert and Monica Rubio and Fr Ricardo Bendana

Region Consists of Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama

51 weekends were held July 2008 to June, 2009. Attendance - 760 couples (decline of 10% over previous reporting period). No of couples in communities 746.

The cost of the weekend is a concern, due to the economic difficulties experienced by several countries.

They are anxiously awaiting the new outline to have all countries working with the same outline.

Annual Regional Meeting is carded soon

All countries are trying to maintain their communities and expand to other dioceses. Priests of the region have done a great job in promoting the weekend with their colleagues.

4) South America South – Presented by Hugo and Mirtha Alcaraz

Region made up of Paraguay, Argentina,

Hope to reactivate CEE in Chile

Actively trying to promote Post Encounter

5) Oceania – Presented by Peter and Chris Rawnsley

Region made up of Brisbane, Perth and Sydney Australia & Wellington New Zealand

11 weekends were held.

A Regional Conference was hosted in Brisbane in March 2008.

Perth stopped presenting weekends in 2008

Sydney has decided to have 2 day weekends. This decision was motivated by financial and man-power considerations

Most weekends in Wellington run at a financial loss.

For consideration at the meeting: - “We are concerned that Oceania is not big enough to warrant remaining a region, yet needs the support and guidance offered by ICEE.

Due to the close proximity of East Asia and Oceania and the fact they were previously one region, the representatives of both regions were asked to discuss the possibility of re uniting.

6) East Asia – presented by Joseph and Tery Kwok

Members of Region: Penang, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore

32 weekends were held in 2008. 27 have been held to date in 2009

There are 13 Junior Couples, 11 Senior Couples and 11 Priests in the Region

The 4th East Asia Conference was held in Penang from 13 -15 June, 2008

Penang celebrated 25th Anniversary in June, 2008. Uses couple montages (slide shows) for 2x2 and Beginning of family talks.

Philippines began presented MSI in 2008. The general sentiment is that the talk is too teachy and may not be appreciated by couples. They would like to stick to the old Sexuality outline.

Singapore began presenting MSI in 2008. Elections of a new Board took place was held in August.

Singapore has weekends booked 6 weekends in advance.

7) South America North – Presented by – German and Sofy Hurtado & Fr Gilberto Gomez

Region made up of Venezuela, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador & Colombia

Venezuela – No weekends being held.

Peru – EE is established in two Diocese Lima and Chincha. To date 17 weekends held with an average attendance of 15 couples

Ecuador – EE is registered with the Council of Bishops since October 1997 and has recognition as a premarital workshop. Weekends are presented in Quito and Ambato. To date 107 weekends have been presented.

Colombia- 1120 weekends with an average attendance of 20 couples have been conducted. In some diocese free weekends (called grant weekends) are conducted.

8) **India – Presented by Valentine and Ana Coelho**

EE has been in Bombay since 1981

13 Weekends presented in Mumbai with 473 couples participating. This is reduction in couples from 2007 when 528 attended 13 weekends.

They hope to increase the number of team couples

9) **Southern Africa – Presented by Rohan and Ursula Sobotker & Fr Rohan Smuts**

Region made up of Kenya and South Africa (4 Archdioceses)
20 weekends held.

Exlansion to Kenya was achieved in November 2008

Their greatest challenge is lack of communication between communities.

The Johannesburg community is to contact the group in Pretoria who has been carrying out EE weekends, with no affiliation to ICEE.

Due to the high cost of retreat facilities weekends in Cape Town are non residential. The community is presently trying to workshop talks to fit in the two day schedule, without negating the fidelity to the outline.

They hope to finalize their website and start a monthly newsletter soon.

10) **Europe – Presented by Antonio and Teresa Folch and Fr Vicente Lopez Millan**

Members of Region – Barcelona, Madrid, Valencia and Vigo (weekends are only held in Spain)

There were 13 weekends with 125 couples.

The Barcelona Community is considering expansion to Tarragona

One of their greatest challenges is to increase the number of couples who experience the weekend

They would like to expand to other cities but do not have the human resources to accomplish it

They find Saturday afternoon very heavy and the two alternatives do not solve the problem.

In the future they plan to improve their communication/relationship, training, meetings, and celebrations in order to stimulate and motivate couples in the community. Promote EE publicly at all levels, especially with Bishops and Priests. Finally they wish to promote Post Encounter groups.

They hope to improve their communication with the International Executive Committee and with other communities / regions in order to ensure mutual support and collaboration, problem solving and sharing of resources.

11) Mexico – Presented by Maribel and Luis Cardenas – FRS Manolo and Marco

EE is present in 29 Cities of the country and they are presently working at expanding to 5 more. In 2008 131 weekends were held with 2427 couples attending. 3 Enrichments were held with 212 couples and 58 Priests sharing on the weekend.

Previously they used terminology of Marriage Encounter, this was changed and their Criteria and Responsibilities Handbook amended in July.

They continue to produce their quarterly Magazine DIME

12) United States – Presented by Rick and Patty Rupert & Fr Joe Mozer

United States has 106 English Speaking Communities and 5 Spanish Speaking. EE started in the United States in 1974.

New NET assumed office in January, 2009. Their goal is to improve communication. Also their primary mission is to support the Outline Revision Committee (ORC or CRB in Spanish) to launch their new outline in a timely manner.

A new website was launched and it utilizes a more modern look and functionality. It provides opportunities for improved communication and expanded recognition of CEE to a broader audience.

Expansion is always a top priority. This year Phoenix in Arizona has opened a new community. They are presently discerning the possibility of opening a community on Michigan. New Hampshire has been presenting weekends in Maine with the hope of starting a community.

There continues to be problems with the collation of statistics.

A concerted effort was made this year to promote and improve contributions for ICEE. Approximately \$15,400.00 has been remitted for the year.

They too face challenges – Reduction in number of couples experiencing the weekend, due to fewer weddings coupled with difficulties in getting communities to pay their due.

Horizons Magazine – The Catholic Engaged Encounter Magazine has not been published for over a year.

The Regional Reports extended to after lunch. The Prayer before lunch was said by Rick and Patty Rupert and Fr Joe.

Enrichment was presented by Fr Gilberto Gomez and German & Sofy Hurtado

QUESTION BOX

Q What are the advantages and disadvantages of Residential and non residential weekends?

¿Cuáles son las ventajas y desventajas de los fines de semana residenciales y no residenciales?

A Cost and availability of facilities were the major considerations. In order to compete with other marriage preparation programmes which may be cheaper non residential weekends would reduce cost.

El costo y la disponibilidad de las instalaciones fueron las consideraciones principales. Con el fin de competir con otros programas de preparación para el matrimonio los fines de semana no residencial pueden ser más barato y reducirían los costos.

Q Suggestion – Introductory activities could be introduced before presentations, in order to prevent monotony (eg game etc)

Sugerencia - las actividades de introducción podrían introducirse antes de las presentaciones, a fin de evitar la monotonía (por ejemplo, juego, etc)

A Oceania will forward suggestions by email

Suggestion – Steve and Claudia are willing to assist communities with their MSI talk

Oceanía sugerencias por correo electrónico

Sugerencia - Steve y Claudia están dispuestos a ayudar a las comunidades con su charla ISM

Q How do you use complementary resources eg Power Point

¿Cómo se usan los recursos complementarios, por ejemplo en Power Point

A Joseph and Teri shared information they had.

Joseph y Teri compartiran la información que tienen.

Q Is there proper Marriage Catechesis?

¿Hay una Buena catequesis matrimonial?

A We can't afford to ignore this reality, especially so as to present to bishops and priests to show that EE is doing exactly what they want.

No podemos darnos el lujo de ignorar esta realidad, sobre todo a fin de presentar a los obispos y sacerdotes para demostrar que la EA está haciendo exactamente lo que quieren

Q How do permanent deacons fit into our needs?

¿Cómo los diáconos permanentes se ajustan a nuestras necesidades?

A In the United States permanent deacons have been used: Deacon presents as Clergy not a married person. Permanent deacons come from a working situation and from this, can enrich the Church; they also come from the experience of family life.

En los Estados Unidos los diáconos permanentes han sido utilizados: Diacono se presenta no como una persona casada sino como parte del Clero. Los diáconos permanentes provienen de una situación de trabajo y de este, se puede enriquecer a la Iglesia, sino que también vienen de la experiencia de la vida familiar.

Q Can all reports be submitted in soft copy?

¿Todos los informes deben presentarse en copia suave?

A This is in progress

Esto está en marcha

Q Pre arranged Marriages...Are these any different from those marriages where couples of different faiths have chosen each other? In our experience, most couples are able to discuss the concepts and begin to understand.

Antes de los matrimonios arreglados ... ¿Son diferentes de los matrimonios en los que parejas de diferentes credos han elegido uno al otro? En nuestra experiencia, la mayoría de las parejas son capaces de discutir los conceptos y comenzar a entender.

A Love in the western sense is not the main element of marriage – community is. Freely choosing the spouse is essential to the marriage and needs to be discussed seriously on the weekend.

El amor en el sentido occidental no es el elemento principal de matrimonio - es la comunidad. Elegir libremente el cónyuge es esencial para el matrimonio y debe ser discutido seriamente en el fin de semana

Q Is pre arranged marriages a problem only in Asia? In India, we have a lot of pre-arranged marriages, but rarely involving Catholics. Most are successful. Can the

ORC include some kind of appendix? Could the cultures involved also submit ideas to the ORC committee?

Antes de los matrimonios es un problema sólo en Asia? En la India, tenemos un montón de pre-matrimonios arreglados, pero raramente participación de los católicos. La mayoría son éxito. ¿Puede el CRB incluir algún tipo de apéndice? ¿Puede la cultura que participan también presentar ideas al CRB?

A Yes ideas can be submitted to the ORC.

Si, las ideas pueden ser presentadas al CRB.

Q Less Church marriages, mean more Civil unions – what can we do to slow down this trend?

Menos matrimonios Iglesia, significa sindicatos más Civil - ¿Qué podemos hacer para frenar esta tendencia?

The reality is that this is not our focus. We work for engaged couples. This question may be for the Bishops.

La realidad es que este no es nuestro objetivo. Trabajamos para las parejas comprometidas. Esta pregunta puede ser para los Obispos.

Q Can a non presenting couple in a pre-arranged marriage be called upon to share their experiences on an EE weekend?

¿Puede una pareja en la no presentación de un pre-matrimonio concertado ser llamados a compartir sus experiencias en un fin de semana ECN?

A Presenting couples have an outline, non presenting couples do not have an outline. The danger in inviting people on the weekend to talk is that it breaks the dynamic of the weekend and can open wounds with which we may not be in a position to deal. Host couples have often recently attended an EE weekend and do a brief 2-3 minute witness presentation. This can put attending couples at ease.

La presentación de las parejas tienen un esquema, no presenta mayores no tienen un esquema. El peligro de invitar a la gente el fin de semana para hablar es que rompe la dinámica del fin de semana y puede abrir las heridas con las que puede no estar en condiciones de abordar. Parejas de acogida a menudo han asistido recientemente a un fin de semana EE y hacer una breve presentación de testigos de 2-3 minutos. Esto puede hacer que asisten a las parejas con facilidad.

Q How can Power Point be used specifically in the talk TWO BY TWO?

Power Point, ¿cómo puede ser utilizado específicamente en la charla dos por dos?

A East Asian representative will show during break. During the break Joseph and Tery shared their Montage of pictures of the family and music which are used during their presentations.

Representante de Asia Oriental se mostrará durante la pausa. Durante el descanso de José y Tery compartieron su montaje de fotos de la familia y la música que se utilizan durante sus presentaciones

Q When was the talk Marriage Sexual Intimacy released?

¿Cuándo fue la conversación matrimonio Intimidad Sexual en libertad?

A 2004

2004

Q Could we have an email of what is available from the Outline and Resource Team?

¿Podríamos tener un correo electrónico de lo que está disponible en el esquema y los recursos del equipo?

A Representatives are to submit resource documents to Outline Team by 31/3/10
Steve and Claudia would publish list of documents on website by 31/8/2010.

Los representantes tienen que presentar los documentos de recursos para delinear equipo de 31/3/10

De Steve y Claudia se publicará la lista de documentos en el sitio web de 31/8/2010.

Q In the Canadian Region Report, challenges re: quality control were raised and not explained. Please explain?

En el informe de la región canadiense, los desafíos Re: control de calidad se plantearon y no se explican. Por favor, explique?

A The Charbonneaus explained the challenge was about work shopping and there is a marked difference in the quality. Further discussions revealed that Regional representatives are responsible for quality control in their area. Maybe the new outline would have guidelines on how to workshop.

El Charbonneaus explicó que el desafío era acerca de la labor comercial y hay una marcada diferencia en la calidad. Los debates posteriores revelaron que los representantes regionales son los responsables de control de calidad en su área. Tal vez el nuevo esquema tendría directrices sobre la forma de taller.

Q What is the ICEE outline on Theology of the Body?

¿Cuál es el esquema ICEE de Teología del Cuerpo?

A India has a document and they were under the impression it came from ICEE. Colombia has these documents and would send them to the executive. The Indian representatives advised that Christopher West has updated his book Theology of the Body for Beginners and the older editions are available at huge discounts from Ascension Press – buy 200 get 800 free.

La India tiene un documento y que estaban bajo la impresión de que procedían de ICEE. Colombia

tiene estos documentos y les enviaría el ejecutivo. Los representantes de la India informó de que Christopher West ha actualizado su libro Teología del Cuerpo para los principiantes y las ediciones anteriores están disponibles en grandes descuentos de la Ascensión de prensa - comprar 200 recibe 800 libre.

Q In Oceania does the Church accept the Government's pre marriage course as acceptable for a Sacramental marriage?

En Oceanía hace la Iglesia acepta curso prematrimonial del Gobierno como aceptable para un matrimonio sacramental?

The government funding is for ALL marriage preparation programmes in Australia. It has to be applied for and approved by the government agency and has to have certain standards. Marriage preparation in Australia comes under an organization called CENTRECARE. It runs acceptable marriage preparation programmes. Courses are very inexpensive. EE applied for funding, the process was too complicated, application withdrawn.

La financiación del Gobierno es para los programas de preparación de todos los matrimonios en Australia. Tiene que ser solicitado y aprobado por el organismo de gobierno y tiene que tener ciertas normas. La preparación al matrimonio en Australia entra en una organización llamada CENTRECARE. Se ejecuta programas de preparación para aceptar el matrimonio. Los cursos son muy baratos. EE solicitado financiación, el proceso era demasiado complicado, solicitud retirada

Q Is EE totally independent of ME?

El ECN es totalmente independiente del EM?

A Yes and No. EE is independent. After discussions it was discovered in some areas like Spain they are connected.

Sí y No. EE es independiente. Después de las discusiones que se descubrió en algunas zonas como España que están conectados.

Q To Mexico – Please explain a KERYGMA EXPERIENCE?

Para México - Por favor, explique UNA EXPERIENCIA kerigma?

A The Bishops expressed a concern that there was no KERYGMA on the weekend. KERYGMA is the original sense of Jesus Christ, died, is risen and our Savior. IET asked Mexico to submit the KERYGMA document for perusal.

Los obispos expresaron su preocupación de que no había Kerygma el fin de semana. Kerigma es el sentido original de Jesús Cristo, murió, resucitó y nuestro Salvador. IET pidió a México a presentar el documento para la lectura de kerygma.

While there were other questions, this marked the end of this first segment re; Question Box.

Si bien hubo otras cuestiones, lo que marcó el final de este nuevo segmento de primera; Pregunta Box.

REPORT ON THE OUTLINE REVISION COMMITTEE – ORC

Rick and Patty Rupert and Fr Joe presented an update on the work of the ORC. They used slides which were used to present to all United States Districts in summer, 2009.

Recent Updates:-

1. US National Board revised half the talks in July and had some questions / comments for the ORC, but generally the Board was very impressed with the current state of the new talks. The other half is presently being reviewed in preparation for a joint meeting of the US National Board and ORC at the end of October.
- 2) ORC will revise all talks based on feedback from National Board and then the new outline will be piloted in a few communities.
- 3) The US National Board is preparing to train sufficient couples to assist the whole nation in writing to the new talks – all new talks must be properly workshopped.
- 4) They are unable to commit to a release date. They hope to present the completed outline to the US Convention in 2010. After the outline is released couples in the United States will have sufficient time to read and understand it, as well as rewrite and workshop their talks before any weekends are presented using the new Outline. Because of the way the topics are presented (themes running throughout instead of “blocks” as in the current outline) the new outline must be presented as a whole – a weekend cannot contain some new talks and some old talks.

- 5) If the release happens on schedule, the new outline would be presented at the ICEE Committee meeting in 2010, at which point the Executive Committee will have the opportunity to begin studying and discussing whether the changes are appropriate for the International Community. The United States would make their Outline resource people available to ICEE through our IET and Outline/Resource Team.
- 6) Eventually there would be a release date for all United States Communities to begin using the new outline.. This date would only be binding on the United States Region. ICEE will determine the schedule for international implementation.

Highlights

- The final product will look familiar to those who know the present outlines.
- No major concepts in the present outline are slated to be removed.
- The preference of the three day weekend will remain the norm (Friday night through Sunday afternoon), but the ORC is designing enough flexibility to make it possible to present all the content in two full days if needed.
- No individual talks would be released until the whole outline is completed.
- There would be enough consistency in most of the talks to allow presenting teams to use many of their same personal examples from previous talks (though this might be a good time to consider if a fresh example might be a better fit).
- As with all talks, these talks will have to be workshopped before they are presented on a weekend.
- The Guide for writing the talk and the outline would be merged into one document.

Advice

“KEEP WORKING ON RECRUITING PRIESTS AND COUPLES FOR YOUR PRESENTING TEAMS. HAVE THEM WRITE TO THE CURRENT OUTLINE, WITH ASSURANCES THAT IT WILL BE EASIER TO ADAPT TO THE NEW OUTLINE. RECRUITING WILL BE A TOP PRIORITY OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS SINCE SOME PEOPLE MAY USE THE TRANSITION TO THE NEW OUTLINE AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO STEP AWAY FROM PRESENTING WEEKENDS”.

POSSIBLE ORDER OF PRESENTATIONS

NB: Titles are tentative

Friday Night

Introduction

Understanding Myself – Personality Audit

Closing Instructions

Saturday Morning

Mass or Prayer Service

Is Romance Enough?

Communication: Beginning of Intimacy with Conflict Resolution Activity

Two become one – Unity in Marriage

LUNCH

Saturday Early Afternoon

Creating a Life-Giving Marriage

Decisions in Marriage

Financial Fidelity Questionnaire

NFP Presentation

Reflection Time

Saturday Late Afternoon

Intimacy in Marriage

DINNER

Saturday Evening

Becoming a family

Evening Activities – Open Discussion / Small Group Discussion/ Love Language Discussion

Forgiveness (or Sunday Morning)

Prayer Service – Penance Service (optional)

Final Instructions

Sunday Morning

Becoming a Sacrament

Betrothal

The Meaning of Stewardship

Forgiveness (or Saturday)

Final Instructions

Mass or Closing Ceremony

TEAM REPORTS

TEAM A REPORT – STATISTICS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Presented by Ronald and Ursula Sobotker and Fr Rohan Smuts

Statistics were not complete as figures were not received from all regions.

There is some resistance from some regions to the requirements of the new statistics period that was agreed at the Executive Committee meeting in Niagara Falls. The purpose of the changes was to streamline information so as to administrate and manage what is an international movement in the church

The Team also requested that communities submit their weekend dates for the following year well in advance for inclusion into the weekend information sent out weekly. They also requested the information be submitted in a legible fashion so that there would be no confusion about dates and venue. Canada was commended for submitting their information well in advance.

Communities were also asked to inform the Communications Team of any changes in Leadership in the region

FROM INFORMATION SUBMITTED THERE HAS BEEN A DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF WEEKENDS AND COUPLES ATTENDING

Day's proceedings ended with Supper, Entertainment and Social Time

Day 3 – WEDNESDAY 7th October, 2009

Mass celebrated by Fr Frank Power – assisted by Francis and Annette Wattie and Jose and Barbara Salazar. – Feast of Our lady of the Rosary.

TEAM REPORTS CONT'D

TEAM B REPORT – FINANCES –

Presented by Francis and Annette Wattie and Fr Frank Power.

The Financial Report was accepted as presented.

Highlights and increase in Suggested Contributions and Donations which was mainly due to Receipt of outstanding contributions from communities in the United States and donation collected at Convention Mass 2008. Special thanks to Steve and Claudia.
Special thanks extended to USA Team.

Question: Bernard Charbonneau asked for an estimated budget as was discussed in the Committee Meeting in Wichita.

Answer: This would be presented to the Board after the Committee meeting.

Discussions revealed that some communities were not clear on the Suggested Contribution.

This was explained – ideally US\$2 per couple or whatever the community could afford.
Steve and Claudia to update Handbook

TEAM C REPORT – OUTLINE AND WEEKEND RESOURCES

Presented by Cesar Lirzano and Fr Rafael Cruz.

Cesar apologized for Gilda's absence which was due to an urgent work situation.

Communities were urged to workshop talks in order to keep the issues and thoughts 'pure and a 'living' experience.

Post encounter is not working in many places as it is hard to get couples to return, due to distance etc. It works in some places eg Mexico.

Communities were urged to keep clear the central idea of the EE weekend – we must keep the quality and not compromise.

The Outline Committee is anxiously awaiting the release of the new Outline in order to coordinate feedback from the International Community.

CONVENTION 2010

The United States Convention would be held 1st – 3rd October, 2010 in Seattle, Washington, USA. This is immediately after the ICEE Executive Committee Meeting.

Regions were encouraged to attend this meeting especially as the new Outline is expected to be released.

Next year's meeting is a Committee meeting so that no financial assistance would be paid. The Executive Committee would be held at a retreat house in the Seattle area.

2011 MEETING SITE BIDS

A discussion then followed on the site for the 2011 Committee Meeting.

Ronald Sobtoker shared that the Committee had agreed in Wichita that Manila would be the Site. A review of the Minutes did not support this. Because this meeting was a Board Meeting and it would have been expensive for all the teams to travel to Manila, they were asked to submit a bid this year,

Bids Submitted

Guatemala, Central America, Quito Ecuador and Manila, Philippines indicated their interest in hosting the 2011 meeting and submitted details.

A lively discussion then followed on the tradition of hosting the Committee / Board meetings in the United States every other year. It was felt that the United States may sometimes be under pressure –

- Having to allocate resources at the same time to co ordinate a Committee Meeting / US Board Meeting and Convention.
- Due to the High cost in some states, it may not always be possible to find accommodation within the price range of ICEE

The general feeling was that while the entire movement benefits from going to the United States, opening up the meeting to other regions would also benefit the movement. After lively discussion with proposals / counter proposals and withdrawals, A proposal was tabled by East Asia and seconded by Canada to give the United States Team time to discern and decide whether the United States wanted to withdraw from holding the meetings bi annually.

The following is the response given by the NET

“The USA representatives recognize the benefits both to the International Family and the USA Family if the International Board decides to come to the USA less often. ICEE is welcome to continue coming every two years, but we cannot guarantee to always meet the ICEE’s expectations of cost, proximity to convention site etc”.

East Asia then proposed that the International Board meet in the USA every 6 years and other regions could bid in between. (There is nothing to prevent the US from bidding for one of the other years). This was seconded by Southern Africa.

Within recent years there appears to be a great desire by many regions to host meetings this would be limited if we continue with the present practice.

After discussions the motion of East Asia was unanimously passed.

“The ICEE Board meeting would coincide with the USA National Convention once every six years and other years other countries and regions can bid (including the USA)”

Handbook to be updated

Prayer before lunch was said by.....

After lunch & Siesta, the Board was taken on a tour of the Cathedral / Cuernavaca, had time for some shopping followed by Dinner with the Bishop

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DAY 4 – Thursday 8TH OCTOBER, 2009

Mass celebrated by Frs. Manolo and Marco assisted by Luis and Maribel Cardenas

Expansion Funds requests

It was explained that Expansion Funds fell into three categories

- (a) Expansion into new areas where EE does not exist
- (b) Revitalizing communities which may have grown dormant
- (c) Support for communities which may not be self sufficient

Requests were received from

English Speaking Caribbean	- Jamaica	\$ 2,000.00
English Speaking Caribbean	- St Lucia	\$ 1,000.00 (prev approved not used)
Spanish Speaking Caribbean	- Cuba	\$ 5,500.00 (weekend expenses)
Europe	-	\$2,100.00
South America North	- Ecuador	\$ 2,000.00
South America South	- Argentina	\$ 2,200.00
Southern Africa	- Kenya	\$ 2,500.00

Amount requested		\$17,300.00

Website/ Newsletter/Email effectiveness/ Handbook & Other Administrative Issues

Steve and Claudia requested photos, information for posting on the website – www.icee.tv.

The new version of the handbook is now available (so far only in English) an email copy can be requested from Steve and Claudia.

A volunteer to produce the ICEE Newsletter was requested. It was too much for the IET to handle.

However it was seen as an important tool to improve communication and build relationships.

Question Box

With some time being available before lunch, additional questions from the question box were Entertained:-

Q From India to ICEE, what is the International Outline?

A The Outline developed and adopted by the United States national Board (see handbook). A copy of the outline can be ordered from Central Supply.

Q What is the criteria for choosing new presenting teams?

A Criteria can be found in the Handbook the handbook.

Q Should presenting teams be couples who are not sterilized and who are not using contraceptives?

A ICEE does not dictate this requirement to the regions. Each region or community, as directed by their Bishop, must make this decision concerning team requirements. However, at all times, presenting teams must speak and support the teachings of the Catholic Church and should not share their own personal decisions or opinions. The community needs to educate their members as some persons are not aware of the Church's teachings. Once sterilization takes place it is not always reversible. We must present the moral ideal. It is up to couples to inform their consciences and act accordingly. We are not policemen. Ideally, we should all be perfect.

Q When writing talks for the new outline, who workshops the workshopers? (asked twice)

A The ICEE Executive. The IET at minimum would be among those trained to workshop. Someone from ORC may also supervise.

MSI talk is working well in English Speaking Caribbean. We originally had difficulties, but after a session and assistance in workshopping from Steve and Claudia, we are happy with the result. Many of our old examples were used to personalize (eg honeymoon).

Q Can a webpage be developed and regions update their own information?

A Not at this time

Review of Tasks from 2008 Meeting

The following items were deleted / completed

1	Knights of Columbus – no longer necessary
2	Update of handbook – done
3	Terms of reference for Committee members – done
4	EE Song
5	While the Charbonneaus received the requested information – we are not pursuing a song at this time
7	Couple Hands
8	South African DVD on NFP – done
9	Possibility of Regions updating information on line – not possible at this time
10	Expansion to Jamaica – done
11	Updated Directory of Board Members – done
12	Letter from Vatican – done
13	Letter to Vatican – no longer being pursued – Vatican Recognition instead
14	Updating of handbook re; definition of Sacramental Marriage – done
15	Updating of handbook re; Voting Rules – done
16	Friday's Prayer – done – distributed to delegates
17	Recruitment DVD – done – it can be downloaded to a flash drive for those who need it
18	USA Appeal letter – done
19	French version of Outline and Questions – done
20	Letter to SAN – done
21	Document on Team
22	Write Latin American community re: Logo – done
23	Assistance for 2009 meeting – done

24	Amend Handbook re; Team Names – done
25	Names and addresses of Bishops who support EE – letters rec'd
26	Copyright information on song “You have our Future” - unsuccessful
27	Amend receipts to differentiate between Suggested Contributions and Donations
28	Amend wording on financial report – Suggested Assessment

Updated Task List follows these minutes – Page 28

The only matter which is carried forward is No 6

6. The IET is to continue following up the possibility of obtaining Vatican Recognition

There was some discussion on this matter. In order to get Vatican recognition, we need to establish that we are a world wide organization. We have not received letters of support from Bishops of India, South America South, Central America – Spanish Speaking Caribbean and East Asia.

It was noted that there is a fundamental difference between ME and EE. EE is more regional and it is incumbent on the bishops to prepare couples for marriage. It is a pastoral recommendation to prepare couples for marriage.

Question Box

Again during the period before lunch questions were entertained from the Question Box.

Q After the Two by Two talk, we ask couples to write a letter to those outside. It works well but need to be properly introduced and not just a nice idea.

A This can be submitted to the ORC within the next two weeks.

Q Your comment about changes to the outline – What Changes?

A Some talks have been combined for the 2 day programme.

Q We have been using the ME symbol for “I love you”, does EE have a symbol or can we adopt one.

A The symbol used by ME does not belong to them but is sign language. ICEE has not adopted a hand signal or gesture

Q To USA Team – We have been using two day weekends for some time. What are the benefits of a three day experience?

A Come in tired on Friday, and get a good night's sleep and thus start fresh on Saturday
Having a 2 night experience lends for better bonding
We maintain the three day as an ideal, but we understand 2 day may be preferable.

Q Is it possible to unify and reduce the number of questions at the end of a talk?

A Exact numbers not available yet. We should encourage our couples not to try to answer all the questions, but to answer those most pertinent to them as individuals and as a couple. They can do further work at home. Tell them answer those they like least first.

Q For East Asia and Oceania, is it worth uniting again?

A We will discuss and advise you of outcome

Q To Canada and USA can you share on the Jacksonville Florida community discernment experience?

A The document used for discernment is the USA's discernment guide and is available and can be shared.

Q Can we define INTERNATIONAL OUTLINE?

A The Outline as adopted and approved by the United States Board. (Ref. Handbook)

Q For East Asia – please share outlines for 2 day live out weekend and Power point

A Will do. This was done during the lunch break

Q Outlines for Enrichment weekends please? Are they residential or not?

A It is a two day residential. Steve and Claudia can supply the outline. Guatemala and Mexico have them in Spanish.

Q We face a difficulty with the post encounter weekend. What can we do to change this?

A Canada has acquired a 5 talk session which they use. Also Christopher West CD – these do not have questions, but they have developed their own.
Other programmes available – Families In Trust – from Ireland

Q Why is there a change in focus from those remotely preparing for marriage and not those immediately preparing and why are we more concerned about Post Encounter? Are we losing our focus?

A We are all totally committed to the EE weekend.

Q Non residential weekends – how do they work?

A 3 day weekend in a Catholic High School and they go home and come back each day for the whole day. Financially it works. Food is catered.

Prayer service before lunch was led by.....

After Lunch members of the Board were free until 6.00. The Committee met from 3.00pm to 6.00pm

Matters discussed at the Executive Committee Meeting:-

Expansion Funds requests
Discernment process
2011 Meeting Site
Proposed Budget for 2010

During the Executive Committee meeting the coordinators of Argentina and Paraguay were invited to discuss their situation regarding the replacement of the regional coordinators. Elena and Vicente of Argentina and Sofy of Paraguay were involved in the discussions with the Executive Committee. Hugo was not feeling well and was unable to attend.

All were open to discussion and at the end it was agreed that the present coordinators would continue being Regional coordinators for another two years and lead to discernment in 2011.

After the Executive Committee meeting delegates were advised of the outcomes

Expansion Funds requests

The following were approved

English Speaking Caribbean – St Lucia	\$ 1,000.00
Jamaica	\$ 1,000.00
Europe	\$ 1,000.00
Ecuador	\$ 1,000.00
South America South – Argentina	\$ 1,100.00
Spanish Speaking Caribbean – Cuba	\$ 2,000.00

Total approved \$7,000.00

Southern Africa withdrew their request.

Regions were reminded that while the amounts are approved, disbursement would only be made on submission of documents/ receipts.

Discernment Process

After discussion, it was agreed two discernments would take place

-
- 1st IET only
- 2nd Committee – 3 teams

First discernment is open to any member of the Board or other team which may have indicated an interest.

If your name is put forward for IET and you are not successful, are still eligible for discernment on the committee

The committee would meet after discernment to allocate portfolios.

Team A and IET start their term at the end of this meeting.

Team B -At the end of 2010 meeting

Team C – At the end of 2011 meeting

The conclusion of the discussion on portfolios resulted in the following decision wherein teams always maintain the following portfolios:

Team A – Statistics and Communication

Team B – Finances

Team C – Outline and Weekend resources

This decision was accepted by the Board. **Handbook to be updated**

2011 Site Bid

The bids of Guatemala, Manila and Quito Ecuador were considered. It was agreed Manila, Philippines would be the venue for the 2011 Committee Meeting.

Budget 2010

Income – including beginning Bank Balance \$38,000.00

Expenses \$29,100.00

East Asia and Oceania advised that they discussed the suggestion to join and agreed to remain separate.

Session ended with Prayer service and blessing before supper led by..... followed by entertainment and social gathering with the Cuernavaca team.

DAY 5 FRIDAY 9th October, 2009

Session began with a review of the Executive Team responsibilities as stated in the Handbook.

There were no absent teams open to discernment.

Discernment

Facilitated by Fr Frank Power and Francis and Annette Wattie

Process opened with an explanation of the process and who were eligible for discernment

A reading from Romans 12: 1-8 was then done in English and Spanish

Couple / team reflection followed

Couples were then asked if they were open to the process

This was followed by Psalm 100 being read in English and Spanish

Selection Process

IET

The first vote was for the International Executive Team

The Following Teams indicated their openness to being selected

Ronald, Ursula Sobotker & Fr Rohan Smuts

Cesar, Gilda Tavarez and Fr Rafael Cruz

Steve and Claudia Schulz and Fr Tery Runstedler

**Steve, Claudia Schulz and Fr Tery Runstedler were unanimously selected (15 ballots) and thus returned as IET for the 2009 – 2012 term
Committee Members**

During the first round of selection for Committee Members, the following indicated their openness to discernment:-

Sobotker / Smuts – Southern Africa
Lirzano / Cruz – Dominican Republic
Rubio - Guatemala
Cardenas-Mexico
Coelho – India
Charbonneau – Canada
Kwok – Singapore
Patty & Rick – USA
Rawnsley – New Zealand
Salazars – Trinidad and Tobago

At the end of the first round no team received an overwhelming majority, another Poll was done and Coelhos, Ruperts and Rawnsleys declined to proceed further

A second round of voting was conducted, with the same situation, Sobotkers, and Salazars declined to proceed further.

The third round of voting had the following indicating openness

Lirzano
Rubio
Cardenas
Charbonneau
Kwok

After a third round of voting, the Lirzanos declined to proceed further.

At the next round, the following were the results:-

Rubio	12
Cardenas	10
Charbonneau	13
Kwok	10

The results of the two highest were accepted and there was a final vote among the two teams who gained 10. The result was:

Cardenas	6
Kwok	9

The Committee members would therefore be

Steve and Claudia Schulz and Fr Tery Runstedler IET

Bernard and Ginette Charbonneau
Joseph and Tery Kwok
Herbert and Monica Rubio

In case any Team cannot assume their portfolio or cannot complete their term Cardenas would be asked to join the committee.

The discernment was followed by the symbolic anointing of the hands of the Board Members by the new IET.

While the committee held their first meeting the rest of the Board proceeded to the Chapel to pray.

After the Committee meeting the portfolios were announced:-

Charbonneau	Statistics and Communication	2009 – 2012
Kwok	Finance	2010 – 2013
Rubio	Outline and Resources	2011- 2014

Closing Mass was celebrated by Fr Tery Runstedler, followed by lunch and farewells.

Respectfully submitted:
Francis & Annette Wattie
Fr Frank Power

Confirmed:.....

Seconded.....

Task list

1. Steve Claudia and Fr Tery	to continue following up possibility of Vatican recognition
2. All regions	submit list of resource documents to outline team by 31/3/2010
3. Outline Team	Complete list of resources and advise Regional reps by email by 30/6
4. Steve and Claudia	to publish list on website by 30/8/2010
5. Steve and Claudia	Send List of Resources received from Paco and Mali to Outline Team by 31/3/10
6. Coelho	Send IET copy of Theology of the Body Document they use
7. Fr Gilberto	Send C. West document on Theology of the Body to Outline Team
8. Mexico	Forward copy of KARYGMA document to Steve and Claudia
9. Claudia	obtain a list of all resource material from Central Supply and have them translated to Spanish. Share translations with United States
10. Communications	Develop Annual calendar to be posted on website
11. Steve and Claudia	1. Update handbook re; new voting rules I. Portfolio re; Committee members II. Suggested Contribution- Reporting period for Statistics III. Site for meetings
12. Fr Rohan	IV. to contact South African Cardinal for assistance with Vatican recognition
13. East Asia	submit outline for 2 day non residential weekend
14. Outline team	send all outline suggestions to USA – NET for submission to ORC
15. Communications Team	update Board Directory