

## APPENDIX IV: FINANCE COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING PRESENTATION

### SLIDE ONE



CTSA Business Meeting  
June 14, 2024 ♦ Baltimore, Maryland

#### Aims:

- respond to shifting needs in the theological academy
- increase financial transparency and cultivate shared stewardship
- reduce passive experience/retrospective focus of meeting

#### Procedure:

- bring to vote several measures that respond to signs of our times
- incorporate presentations on our finances, vision statements
- shift from reading reports to fielding questions on posted reports  
materials: the posted reports in the Dropbox remain available via the "Members Only" page of our website at the first link under "Correspondence & Reports" (link was sent to members on May 31<sup>st</sup>)
- conduct our regular annual business (elections, awards)



### SLIDE TWO



## President's Report

Posted president's report online reviews the year's progress in areas of:

- responding to academic precarity (Tutti Fund, Study Group on the Value of Theology in University Education, consultation re: convening our meetings online);
- engaging the Synod on Synodality (USCCB and Interguild Synodal Dialogues, CCCB);
- enabling international engagement (Virtual Event, online meeting votes, WFTL, INSeCT);
- addressing demographic shifts among our membership (Memorial Service changes)

Posted reports from CUERG and the Centennial Committee also indicate significant developments in enhancing recognition of contributions by colleagues from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups and major planning for our future.

#### Updates to president's report:

- In late May, the Callaghan-Pierog Foundation made a second contribution of \$25,000 in response to our report on uses of its November \$10,000 gift
- Yesterday's Board meeting



Convention thank-yous: President-Elect Nancy Pineda-Madrid; own yearlong gratitude

SLIDE THREE



Overview of Votes



Consultation over the past year:

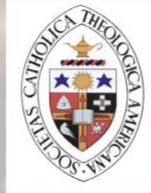
- October: 5-Year Convention Report (265 responses), “End of the Golden Era” virtual event (60 attendees)
- November: Member Employment Survey (237 responses)
- February and March: Town Halls (3 proposals, 54 total attendees)
- April: Online Convention Survey

86 online every 3 years (2027)  
 72 online every 4 years (2028)  
 53 in-person meetings only  
 211 Total Responses

Resulting Proposals for vote today:

1. online business meetings (including voting)
  - retain forum for discussion at convention itself
- 2a. rotating online conventions (if passes, 2b. determine whether to meet online every 3 or 4 years)
  - signs of our times, balance of goods
3. elimination of “24-hr proviso” bylaws change
  - given the new online resolutions protocol (approved in October, announced in January) and related Board vote on the proviso in March

SLIDE FOUR



Financial State of the CTSA, 2024

Current Status  
 Challenging Trends  
 Stewardship for Sustainability

## SLIDE FIVE



## Overview

The CTSA is moving proactively to think about a sustainable future, recognizing that the landscape for theological scholarship has changed.

This short presentation, focused on the financing of the CTSA, will highlight some of the concerns we all share.

## SLIDE SIX



## Current Status: A Precarious Steady-State



### Current Status:

1. CTSA **Infrastructure**: Annual Dues vs. Operating Expenses
2. The **Convention**: Revenue and Expenditures
3. The **Investment Fund**: Underwriting Institutional Stability

SLIDE SEVEN



## REALITIES IMPACTING Our Financial Status


● On Track   
 ● At Risk   
 ● Unknown

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- Cost of Running the Society:  
 (1a) Annual Dues and (1b) Operating Expenses
- Cost of Convention:  
 (2) Revenues and Expenditures
- The Endowment:  
 (3) Underwriting our Financial Story
- The financial implications of a changing membership.



SLIDE EIGHT



## Overall Impact of these realities, thus far

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**1b** Dues Revenues vs. Operating Expenses

Year	Total Operation Expenditures	Dues Revenue
2017	\$135,000.00	\$95,000.00
2018	\$125,000.00	\$95,000.00
2019	\$115,000.00	\$98,000.00
2020	\$110,000.00	\$100,000.00
2021	\$125,000.00	\$90,000.00
2022	\$125,000.00	\$100,000.00
2023	\$125,000.00	\$65,000.00

Operating Expenses History

Year	Proceedings	Fall Board Meeting	Convention	Administration
2023	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
2022	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
2021	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
2020	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
2019	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
2018	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
2017	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00

SLIDE NINE



### 1. Infrastructure: The Cost of Running the Society is Dues Dependent



- 2021 COVID drop in dues with recovery in 2022-23.
- 2023: Dues down by 1/3 – non-payment and lower payments.
- 2024: with most dues in by this point in the year, recovery reflects higher rates, but ... still lower numbers of dues-paying members.

SLIDE TEN



### CTSA MEMBERSHIP 2017 – May of 2024



**MEMBERSHIP**

A KEY INDICATOR OF OUR CURRENT STATUS:

\*14% loss of overall membership.

\*20% loss of "Members in good standing".

\*New member applications are down (30%), but future pattern for these unclear.

SLIDE ELEVEN



## 2: The Cost of the Convention

- Hospitality costs are up across the board.
- Academic travel budgets are tighter or not as available to our members.
- Publishers have also struggled, with fewer resources for conference travel, size of exhibits, and receptions.
- Presidential fundraising has been strong, but unpredictable.



SLIDE TWELVE



## 3: CTSA Investment Fund

### Underwriting Our Financial Story: Income and Stability

**Provides Income:**

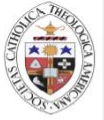
- Generates annual income to support the Society and its mission.

**Guarantees stability:**

- Enables booking of future conventions at favorable rates
- Assures the stability of our institutional structure.



## SLIDE THIRTEEN



## Stewardship for Sustainability

What structures will serve our mission and how will we finance these?



### STEWARDED THE NEXT GENERATION OF THEOLOGICAL SCHOLARSHIP WILL REQUIRE...

- \*understanding how our day-to-day operations have been funded and how that is changing,
- \*recognizing what the CTSA's decades of care for theological scholarship has meant for this discipline, and
- \*a willingness to proactively structure our practices and funding model to address a rapidly shifting landscape.

## SLIDE FOURTEEN



## Stewardship for Sustainability: Pressing Issues for Our Mission

- Our investment fund is our hedge against sudden fluctuations in the patterns of our membership, ensuring stability.
- We are not falling off a "cliff," but we do continue to see pressure on our financial parameters.
- Our profession, as a whole, is precarious, with a fairly steady rate of contraction – fewer positions with travel funding, closed or merged departments or schools.
- Welcome new methods and identities in theological scholarship have resulted in the emergence of other scholarly societies, which may impact our convention numbers.
- Accessibility and affordability are increasingly impacting our convention attendance, requiring the consideration of new forms of engagement.



## SLIDE FIFTEEN



## Stewardship for Sustainability

● On Track ● At Risk

- Our primary focus is supporting scholars/scholarship that that are immersed in both the tradition of Catholic theology and the intellectual and pastoral life of the Church and the Academy today.
- The CTSA is committed to supporting scholars at a time when they are increasingly under-supported, and work is increasingly marginalized in university academic departments.
- The CTSA is committed to engaging and supporting the work of previously marginalized scholars and topics. **The CTSA needs members to invest in the work we know the Church needs, and not lose the prophetic voices among us by lack of engagement or attrition.**

## SLIDE SIXTEEN



## Stewardship for Sustainability: action items for Board and Finance Committee

**Maintain market-appropriate draw on investment fund to protect our long-term financial stability.**

**Identify “next step initiatives” for targeted fund-raising opportunities, bequests, and grants.**

- \* **CHRISTIE SCHOLARSHIPS: A history of assisting our membership**
- \* **TUTTI FUND: The CTSA responds with a new and successful initiative. This will require sustained support.**

**Craft and implement a structure for long-term fundraising efforts.**



SLIDE SEVENTEEN



## Stewardship for Sustainability

The Centennial Committee will help us to create a focused vision that communicates, to our many audiences, the importance of the CTSA's work for the Church's future.

**The Centennial Committee:**

- Has invited feedback on sample vision statements, as part of a larger Strategic Planning process.
- Created the ad hoc group: "CTSA Study Group on the Value of Theology in University Education"



SLIDE EIGHTEEN



## SLIDE NINETEEN



# ENVISION

...the CTSA at 100

## What is a vision statement?



“A mission statement deals with “why” an organization exists, while a vision statement succinctly expresses “what” that existence will eventually look like. Primarily intended for members and stakeholders, a vision statement describes what an organization aspires to *be* in the longer-term . . . Part roadmap, part inspiration, . . . a vision statement helps give the organization shape and purpose.”

[from “22 Vision Statement Examples To Help You Write Your Own,” BREX  
<https://www.brex.com/journal/vision-statement-examples/>]

## SLIDE TWENTY



# ENVISION

...the CTSA at 100

### 3 Sample Vision Statements: Please Share Your Responses & Ideas!

1. “The CTSA: Advancing theological scholarship and reflection in service of a changing Church, academy, and wider world.”
2. “The CTSA: Serving God’s people by promoting theological wisdom, learning, and excellence.”
3. “The CTSA: Promoting theological wisdom, learning, and excellence in a spirit of service.”

The Centennial Committee is eager to hear your comments via: **Written Form/Box; QR Code; Email; Or In person at our “Coffee Break Listening Post”--- or anytime during the convention!**

23-24 CC Members: Tony Alonso, Kevin Burke, Frank Clooney, Nancy Dallavalle, Patrick Flanagan, Kristin Heyer, Christine Firer Hinze, Linh Hoang, Jaisy Joseph, Daniel Rober

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