

*Young Men's Institute*  
*Board of Grand Directors*  
*Meeting Minutes of July 17, 2021*

***Call to Order*** — Brother Michael Dimech #613, Past Grand President, Grand Secretary, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

***Opening Prayer*** — The opening prayer was led by Rev. Agnel De Heredia #32, Grand Chaplain, asking for God's blessings on all Brothers present, those Brothers who are ill and a return to some form of normalcy in the practicing of our faith.

***Pledge of Allegiance*** — the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Brother Michael Dimech #613, Past Grand President, Grand Secretary, in place of Brother Bob Fiorito #613, Grand Marshal who was absent.

***Acceptance of the Election Committee Report from the 136<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session***

***"Technology Based 99"*** — On behalf of the Election Committee from the 136<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session, Brother Bob Bartoli #32, Past Grand President, presented the voting results from the delegates. He reported that there were 100 ballots sent to the delegates via e-mail and first class mail (5). Seventy-two Brothers cast their ballots. All Brothers running for Grand Council Office were elected. All Brothers running for Directorships in the Education Foundation and the Seminarian Education Foundation were elected. All issues (Rules of the Grand Council Session, Budget, State of the Institute, Long Range Plan, Resolutions) listed in the Advance Proceedings were passed. Brother Bartoli asked if there were any questions, hearing none, he requested that a vote be taken to approve his report. All Brothers present approved the report unanimously, via the Zoom call, without any question. Brother Tom Fourie #32, Past Grand President, in accordance with past practice moved that the ballots be destroyed (in this year as in the last, this meant deleting the file). This motion was unanimously adopted, via Zoom call, without any question.

***Reciting of the Oath of Office by the 2021-2022 Grand Council Officers*** — Rev. Agnel De Heredia #32, Grand Chaplain, recited the oath of office and swore in all elected Grand Council Officers via the Zoom call, and all responded in a positive manner.

These Brothers were now officially the Grand Council Officers for the 2021-2022 Grand Council year. The newly installed officers were roundly applauded.

*A Special Presentation* – Immediate Past Grand President, Michael Amato #613 was presented, via the Zoom call, his pocket insignia and life-long Past Grand President regalia by his wife, Mara Amato. Brother Michael was roundly applauded for his outstanding work this past year as Grand President.

*Reciting of the Oath of Office by the 2021-2022 District Deputy Grand Presidents* – Brother Nick Franceschine #54, Grand President recited the oath of office and swore in all appointed District Deputy Grand Presidents who were present. All were thanked in advance for their service this YMI year.

*Roll Call* – Brother Michael Dimech #613, GS, called the roll for all Grand Council Officers and District Deputy Grand Presidents as well as other Brothers in attendance. He found that the following Brothers were present:

Eugene Espinola #94, GD

Jim Rohe #612, GD

Bill Avery #80, GD

Bill McNeany #40, GD (joined meeting later)

Alex Schmitt #8, GD and DDGP

Paul Larson #32, GD

Tommy Figueira #573, GD and DDGP

Frank Hepburn #2, PGP, GD

Nick Franceschine #54, GP

Darrell Fonseca #99, GFVP

Steve Cresci #32, GSVP

Michael Amato #613, IPGP

Rev. Agnel De Heredia #32, GC

Michael Dimech #613, PGP, GS

Jack Albrecht #1, GT

Cosmo Amato #613, GIS and DDGP

Domenic Carinalli #54, GOS

Frank DiMaggio #59, PGP, DDGP

**Phil Fondale #137, DDGP**

**Gene Espinola #94, DDGP**

**Stephen May #80, DDGP**

**Tom Fourie, #32, PGP, Business Manager**

**Bob Bartoli #32, PGP, Assistant to the Business Manager**

**The following Brothers were marked as either excused or absent:**

**Bob Fiorito #613, GM as excused**

**Paul Flores #100, DDGP as absent**

**Steve Ortiz #80, DDGP as absent**

**Alex Preciado #2, DDGP as excused**

**Clement Gusman #573, DDGP as absent**

**Scott Vogelgesang #612, DDGP as absent**

*Special Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors for the 2021-2022 UMC? year* – Brother Michael Dimech #613, Past Grand

President, Grand Secretary, requested nominations for the position of Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors and Vice Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors. Outgoing Chairman of the Board, Brother Steve Cresci #32, Grand Second Vice President, reviewed the requirement of Board Chairman. Brother Dimech asked for nominations and Brother Cresci nominated Brother Paul Larson for the position of Chairman. Brother Larson acknowledged the nomination, but chose the position of Vice Chairman of the Board. Following a discussion, Brother Bill Avery #80 accepted the position of Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors. The 2021-2022 Board of Grand Directors voted unanimously for these two Brothers to serve as officers.

*Approval of the Minutes from the Board of Grand Directors May 15, 2021 Meeting* –

Chairman of the Board, Brother Bill Avery #80, Grand Director asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the May 15, 2021 Board of Grand Directors meeting. An addition to the minutes under New Business concerning the hiring of a lawyer to review a possible By-Laws change was added. Brother Alex Schmitt #8, Grand Director made the motion to accept the minutes of May 15, 2021 as amended and it was seconded by Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Grand Director. The Board voted to accept the minutes as amended from May 15, 2021, except for Brother Frank Hepburn #2, Past Grand President, Grand Director, who abstained.

*Approval of the Minutes from the 136<sup>th</sup> Special Grand Council Session on June 12, 2021*

– Chairman of the Board, Brother Bill Avery #80, Grand Director, asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the June 12, 2021 Special Grand Council Session. There was no discussion at this time. Brother Alex Schmitt #8, Grand Director, District Deputy Grand President made the motion to accept the minutes of June 12, 2021 and Brother Bill Avery #80, Grand Director seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously via the Zoom call to accept the motion.

*Communications* - Brother Michael Dimech #613, Past Grand President, Grand Secretary reported on a letter he received from the Program Director of the YLI Grand Institute for 2021. It stated that the YLI would not be able to invite the YMI Grand President for his traditional message at their convention this year. Although they were meeting in Reno, Nevada during the month of July, they were only meeting for their business and not having any extra visitors or social events. They hope to return next year as an open convention and have the YMI be present.

Brother Tom Fourie #32, Past Grand President and Business Manager referred all Officers to the e-mail he had sent previously with communications received and distributed from the Grand Council Office. It included the following:

1. Council Bulletins received:
  - a. San Jose Council #2: June
  - b. South San Francisco Council #32: June and July
  - c. Francis Council #573: June
  - d. St. John Bosco Council #613: June and July
2. Cover letter for Assessment #183
3. Cover letter for Certificates of Liability Insurance for Councils (2021-2022)
4. Copy of the Voice of YLI – their convention issue
5. Two copies of the Catholic Voice (final copies, going to a magazine)
6. One copy of the Catholic Herald (Sacramento Diocese)

*Reports of the Grand Treasurer* – Brother Jack Albrecht #32, Grand Treasurer, referred all the officers to the single report dated June 20, 2021 that had been e-mailed the week prior to this meeting. He assumed that all Officers had received it and had an opportunity to review the report. There was but one report this month as no income had been received over the past report period. He asked if there were any questions, and hearing none, asked that a vote to accept the report be taken. Brother Bill Avery #80, Grand Director asked for a motion to accept the report as presented. Brother Alex Schmitt #8, Grand Director, made the motion to accept and Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Grand Director,

seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously by the Board of Grand Directors.

Brother Albrecht announced that one of the long time investors for the YMI, Mr. Keith Woodcock, has recently died unexpectedly. Brother Albrecht was awaiting information from Worldwide Equities as to who will become our account manager. Rev. Agnel suggested a Mass be offered for Mr. Woodcock and all agreed. Brother Albrecht will make the arrangements.

*Assignment of Grand Directors to the Board of Grand Directors Committees for the year*

**2021-2022** – Brother Bill Avery #80, Grand Director, assisted by Business Manager, Brother Tom Fourie #32, Past Grand President, reviewed the eight committees listed in the meeting agenda. As the committees were announced and Brothers assigned, Brother Tom Fourie #32, Past Grand President and Business Manager briefly reviewed what was expected of the committee's efforts in accordance with the Grand Council By-Laws. Other Grand Officers also added their expectations for this year.

- a. Charters/Archives: Brothers Paul Larson #32, Bill Avery #80 and Eugene Espinola #94
- b. Finance: Brothers Paul Larson #32, Frank Hepburn #2, Past Grand President, and Alex Schmitt #8
- c. Long Range Planning: Brothers Alex Schmitt #8, Tommy Figueira #573, Frank Hepburn #2, Past Grand President, and Bill McNeany #40
- d. Council Activities: Brothers Jim Rohe #612, Eugene Espinola #94 and Bill Avery #80
- e. Insurance: Brother Paul Larson #32
- f. Fund Raising: Brothers Bill Avery #80 and Eugene Espinola #94
- g. Supplies: Brothers Alex Schmitt #8 and Jim Rohe #612
- h. Grand Council Planning Committee: Brother and Mrs. Paul Larson #32

*Grand President's Report* – Grand President Nick Franceschine #54 had previously sent out an e-mail concerning how the Grand President goes about spending his budget allotment for the YMI year. He asked to be educated on the cost and payments for trips to Indiana and Hawaii given the wording of the Grand Council By-Laws. Given the presence of several Past Grand Presidents in attendance he was given a crash course on the standard procedure which had been followed over many years. His concerns were addressed and he said he had a better understanding of the process.

Brother Nick also spoke to realigning the Districts of Councils given the fact that he has yet to assign a few Councils to a District Deputy Grand President. He is working though several alternatives.

The new Grand Second Vice President, Brother Steve Cresci #32, made an offer to the Immediate Past Grand President Michael Amato #613, that he would be more than willing to allocate his budget for 2021-2022 to the IPGP to go on out of state visits during the next year as there were no visit this year due to the Covid pandemic. Brother Amato thanked him for his offer.

The next Education Foundation meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2021 and the next Seminarian Education Foundation meeting is September 2, 2021.

*Grand First Vice President's Report* – Brother Darrell Fonseca #99, Grand First Vice President, briefly reviewed his work on the 2021-2022 Pro Patria Essay Contest and Raffle. He is planning to increase some student essay prizes, yet he will keep the wonderfully successful ticket sales approach begun by IPGP Michael Amato. Hopefully all YMI Brothers will buy their tickets. He is currently finalizing the two essay topics and will begin to send out information to all of the YMI in the next few months.

*Grand Second Vice President's Report* – Brother Steve Cresci #32, Grand Second Vice President, is beginning to plan for the 2022 Red and White Mass in the Spring of 2022, probably in the South San Francisco Area. Father Agnel reminded him to plan early and make sure the pastor of the selected Church is well aware of our tradition. Brother Steve is very excited about moving up the Chair Officers ladder and will appreciate any and all help he can get from his fellow Brothers.

### *Grand Secretary's Report/Business Manager's Report*

The Grand Secretary highlighted the following for his report:

- a. Brother Dimech had requested several updates from our Webmaster to our YMI Website to include:
  - i. Updates to our By-Laws and Constitution
  - ii. YMI Man of the Year, Council of the Year
  - iii. YMI listing of Presidents
  - iv. Changes to our YMI Home Page
  - v. Update to the Memoriam page
  - vi. The new Grand Presidents Program
  - vii. Updated the Officers and Directors Section
  - viii. Election results, recording from the YMI 136<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session
  - ix. Council newsletters received from the Business Manager
  - x. Updated the History section of our website with a 14 page document.

- b. Finally Brother Dimech sent an e-mail to Brother Frank Lima #44 on 6-23-2021 to check on the status of his review of the proposed State of the Institute By-Law change that we had requested from him as he wanted to provide an update at this meeting. Brother Lima never responded to Br. Dimech's request.

The Business Manager reviewed the work of the Grand Council Office since May 15, 2021 that was made available on the pre-sent e-mail.

- a. Preparation of Advance Proceedings – enter delegate names, all the Committee reports, Grand Officers reports, District Deputy Grand President reports, Foundation reports, membership total and Council financial totals.
- b. Prepare May and June YMI bills, submit to the Grand Treasurer, sent payments.
- c. Prepare information for Father Agnel's resolution – forward to Brother Nick.
- d. Prepared list of deceased Brothers (2019-2021) for Red and White Mass and Memorial.
- e. Prepared four eulogies for Red and White Mass and Memorial.
- f. Prepared cover letter to send with Advance Proceedings.
- g. Prepared list of voting delegates for the Election Committee.
- h. Responded to Santa Rosa Council #40 regarding YMI tax status.
- i. E-mailed Advance Proceedings to delegates, mailed five copies.
- j. Wrote Prayers of the Faithful for the Red and White Mass and Memorial.
- k. Contacted musician for Red and White Mass and Memorial on appropriate music.
- l. Provided Brother Nick and Brother Michael with appropriate readings/prayers for Red and White Mass and Memorial.
- m. Begin dialogue with agent from Arthur Gallagher on new Liability Insurance Policy.
- n. Work with Brother Bob Bacchetti of Tracy Council #92 to update their enrollment cards.
- o. Attended Red and White Mass and Memorial on June 8, 2021 at St. John the Evangelist Church in San Francisco.
- p. Attended South San Francisco Council #32's in person meetings on June 10 and July 8.
- q. Attended the Special Grand Council Session on June 12, 2021.
- r. Attempted to balance Bakersfield Council #100's membership list – a failure with much frustration.
- s. Sent our May 15, 2021 Board Meeting minutes to Grand Officers.

- t. Prepared and sent 56 separate checks, letters, and envelopes on behalf of the YMI Seminarian Education Foundation.
- u. Sent out election results from Grand Council.
- v. Began sending Grand Council Officers a myriad of documents: Officers List, update Constitution/By Laws, meeting minutes, agendas, Grand President's program, etc.
- w. Assisted the Laws and Revisions Committee.
- x. Received call from Madera council #60 for help – set date for August 3, 2021.
- y. Received, processed and sent individual Council's Certificates of Liability Insurance.
- z. Attended Grand President Franceschine's planning meeting on June 26, 2021.
- aa. Prepared and mailed Assessment #183.
- bb. Balanced Holy Rosary Council #44's membership list with Brother Manuel Drumonde #44, PGP.
- cc. Prepared agenda for July 17, 2021 Board of Grand Directors Meeting.
- dd. Attempted to locate and place Grand Council Officers regalias.
- ee. Begin work on Council Data Document.
- ff. Return Advance Proceedings and IJ boxes to archives.
- gg. Prepared Death Benefit requests for Grand Treasurer, forwarded check to beneficiaries.

Needless to say, the past two months have been very busy and time consuming at the Grand Council Office. Given the above partial list of tasks, visits to the US Post Office, answering phone calls and responding to e-mails, have all contributed to a daily busy schedule of activities.

*Assignment of Grand Directors to Grand Council Committees* – In accordance with the Grand Council By-Laws a member of the Grand Council Board of Directors is to be assigned to each of the Grand Council Committees that are delineated in the Grand President's Program for 2021-2022. In the program, each committee chairman as chosen by the Grand President is listed along with the goals and objectives of each committee.

The following are the Board Appointments for 2021-2022:

Audit Committee – Brother Frank Hepburn #2, Past Grand President

Budget Committee – Br. Alex Schmitt #8, District Deputy Grand President

Reserve Committee – Br. Paul Larson #32



Brother Jack Albrecht gave an update on the amount of funds in the reserve accounts. His report was noted.

Coordinating Committee – Br. Bill Avery #80

Ceremonials Committee – Br. Jim Rohe #612

Institute Journal Committee – Br. Bill Avery #80

Laws & Revisions Committee – Br. Eugene Espinola #94

Brother Fourie read a report from the Laws and Revisions Chairman, Brother Rob Bartoli. The Committee had processed the State of the Institute change from the recent Grand Council Session and found that it was in order.

Man and Council of the Year Committee – Br. Bill McNeany #40

Membership Committee – Br. Tommy Figueira #573

Organization Committee – Br. Alex Schmitt #8, District Deputy Grand President

Resolutions Committee – Br. Bill Avery #80

State of the Institute Committee – Br. Frank Hepburn #2, Past Grand President

Workshop Committee – All Grand Directors

Chairmen of the Sports Group of Committees were announced as follows:

Bowling – Brother Michael Sanzeri #59

Bocce – Brother Michael Dimech #613 – planned for October 16, 2021, Orange Ave. Park in South San Francisco

Golf – Brother Bob Fiorito #613 - working on a date in May 2022

### *Unfinished Business –*

The Grand Council Office continues to attempt to work with Bakersfield Council #100. Since December of 2020 they have been suspended. Although they paid their assessment charge up until June 30, 2021, they have not provided an accurate membership list, nor a statement of the finances of the Council. What little information that has been forthcoming has been incorrect or not appropriate. A lengthy discussion followed among the new Grand Council

**Officers.** Brother Bill Avery and Brother Gene Espinola expressed an interest in trying one more time to obtain compliance from the Council to end their suspension, or otherwise the Council will be closed. Brother Dimech and Brother Fourie were asked to provide whatever documents they have to the Grand President and to Brother Avery and Espinola. The suspension remains until the September 2021 Board meeting.

It appears that all regalias have found a home for the 2021-2022 year.

*New Business* – the following topics were briefly covered due to the length of the meeting.

1. Madera Council #60 had contacted the Grand Council Office requesting help in restarting their Council. It appears that their records were not accurate or even in existence at this time, no idea on their membership, etc., etc. Brother Tom Fourie #32, Past Grand President and Business Manager began to work with one of their members and there will be a Grand Council visit on August 3, 2021 to help them get restarted. Several Grand Council Officers (Brothers Fonseca, Avery, Espinola) as well as Audit Committee Chairman, Brother Bob Bartoli #32, Past Grand President, said they would help with the work.
2. Brother Dimech had still not heard from Brother Lima, our lawyer and he will have to try a different lawyer for the By-Laws proposal.
3. The next date for the Board of Directors' Meeting is set for September 18, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

*Immediate Past Grand President's Report* – Brother Michael Amato #613, Immediate Past Grand President, thanked everyone in the YMI for the support he received during a most difficult year, yet it did have its bright spots. He acknowledged all those who helped with the Special Grand Council Session (which lasted 100 minutes), the Red and White Mass and congratulated the members of the new Board of Grand Directors. Once again, Brother Amato received the accolades from all the Brothers attending the meeting.

*Grand Chaplain's Report* – Father Agnel congratulated everyone in the YMI for hanging in there during such challenging times. He thanked the outgoing officers for their hard work and congratulated the new officers on their willingness to carry on. He reminded us that this year is dedicated to St. Joseph by the Church and he is the patron saint of the YMI. He was very moved by the resolution from the YMI for his 20 plus years of service as the Grand Chaplain.

*Good of the Order –*

- a. Brother Avery spoke to the UTUBE program “Chosen” – looking for feedback
- b. Council #613 had initiated 9 new members in the last three months
- c. Brother Jim Rohe read a thank you letter from the Seminarian sponsored by Council #612 (he is the son of a Council #612 Brother)
- d. Brother Phil Fondale asked for prayers for the community of Our Lady of the Pines in Pioneer, CA. They no longer are having a Sunday mass (no priest available any more. They have to attend Mass on Wednesday, otherwise a long drive to another part of the county on Sunday.
- e. Brother Steve Cresci reported a #32 event, a Bocce Ball Lunch on July 24, 2021.
- f. Everyone congratulated Brother Avery on taking the position of Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors.
- g. August 25, 2021 – a BBQ at Domenic Carinalli’s Winery has been planned by Council #54 to honor the new Grand President. Reservations required. All are invited.

*Closing Prayer – Rev. Agnel De Heredia, #32, Grand Chaplain*

*Adjournment – 11:40 a.m.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Br. Michael Dimech, #613, GS, PGP*

*Br. Thomas Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager*