

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 12th, 2022 7:00 PM

Community Room

Attendees: Keith Barth, Katie Biese Oleinic, Kara Main, Beth Power, Angie Van Brocklin, Tracey Van Stippen, Chris Higgins, Nadine Duncan

Absent: Father Bill, Lois Dennik, Annie Guerts, Elsa Johnson, Tricia Miller, Ted Suess

Opening Prayer / Intentions

Nadine Duncan reported on Mission Month:

- There was good feedback on the 5-minute retreat (50%-63% opened the messages, which is pretty high)
- The three speakers had rather small attendance, but the groups were excited
- The collaborative cooking approach to the food pantry was impactful; and there has been discussion around how we could apply that to our parish
 - E.g. Martha ministries – parish members come together and make food and make it available for anyone to use when they need it.
 - Another idea was to start our own community fridge
 - Matthew 25 wants to work closer with Pillars and systemic change in housing
- The speaker on diversity led a self-assessment of our own biases; considering to have him back to walk us through an assessment as Parish Council
- The overall feeling/takeaway is that people are ready to be doing, rather than just talking, and as a parish we need to start providing opportunities for this
 - Comment – the list of opportunities from Ministry month also may have sparked interest
- Collected over 8,500 for Ukraine, via Catholic Relief Services

Nadine Duncan provided an overview of the upcoming activities for each weekend the next two months.

- A key event will be June 5th at Jones Park that will bring together members from each of the area parishes, with a social and worship focus. There are potentially some grant funds to organize that.
- Good Friday will have an outdoor stations of the cross that will go around the downtown area. The focus will be on the vulnerable brothers and sisters in the locations and the people who minister to them.

Nadine also provided an update on some things that are being followed up on for the **discipleship pathway**. The focus is on providing two quality activities for each of the key spaces on the spectrum (e.g. beginning disciples, missionary disciples). A retreat is being offered in May / June that are going to assess whether it is something worth bringing back to our parish.

Updated covid practices. Most precautions have been reduced, but we are keeping our eye on the newest variant. Communion is back to the 'normal' route.

Parish Norms of St. Mary need to be updated. These were last updated in 2008, but they should be updated every 3 years. Beth shared the latest version (available on the parish website, "[Parish Norms](#)", Part 1) with some areas redlined for discussion. The following updates were discussed:

- **Article 1 Sec 1.** Agreed we should bring back the Vice Chair role in order to bring better continuity to the Chair position
- Need to clarify throughout the document how many voting members there are (should be 11)
- **Part 1 Sec 4.** Add freshmen as eligible for the youth member
- **Part 1 Section 5.** 'each of the nine adult voting members'
- **Article 2 Section 1a.** Agreed to revise the nomination process to be April / May with announcement on Pentacost, as we have been doing. But need to make sure there is still a June meeting to transfer members (this year would be June 7th)
- **Article 2 section 1b.** Agree to strike this, but consider having a Xavier representative meet with the Council in some form during the year to make sure we are integrating well.
- **Article 2 section 1c.** Selection Committee is not needed. Instead this should be a coordinator position to manage the process (promote the openings, wrangle the nominations, etc.). Take 'selection' out throughout the document.
- **Article 2 section 1d.** Nominees shall receive information packet and attend an orientation "activity" – this should be flexible enough to accommodate what is needed (could be a call, zoom, meeting, etc.), depending on number of nominees, etc.
- **Article 2 section 1f.** Beth to clean up
- **Consider: somewhere we want to include a 'job description' with expectations of members – where does this go? Article 6?**
 - E.g. members must be active participants in the committee that you liaise with, and therefore the time commitment is a minimum of 2 meetings per month
 - Additional retreats, etc.
- How to include the dynamic between Finance council and Parish council?
- **Article 2 section 9:** needs an overhaul - these should be terms of no less than 5 years; consider this with Father Bill or Carol
- **Article 4 Sec 4:** edit it to communicate the meetings online (adjust to the fact that we are more than print-based)
- **Article 5 Sec 6:** needs to be clarified (e.g. various pastoral team members "identified by the Pastor"). Executive committee could be very important in the future, as we need to form something that is lasting. Facilitate knowledge exchange between pastoral team and the council.
- **Article 5 Sec 7.** General agreement that this should stay in, and enforcement would be appreciated.
 - Suggestion for meetings: add times to the meeting agendas to help us keep on track

- Not all items were discussed and this will take time. The Council will continue to work on this through to next year, with an aim to have a lasting document going forward. Will make sure it complies with guidelines from the Diocese.
 - [Beth to share Word document for further edits](#)

PLC Nomination Timeline / Process

- Nominations should be announced the week after Easter
- Agreed we need to have multiple ways to facilitate the process (pews, Flocknote, etc.)
- Regarding the nomination announcement, suggestions were made to 'advertise':
 - Eligible ages (e.g. can nominate youth who will be starting freshmen year in the fall)
 - Open committee liaisons – [Beth to poll the remaining member to see where everyone is going to be next year, and then determine the open positions.](#)
 - Note: within Discipleship, it was also discussed to consider 'young disciples' - perhaps a specific liaison for this
- Beth will coordinate via email to get council volunteers to call and orient nominees.

Chris Higgins gave a brief staffing update.

- Emily Wallace started last week on communications, among other roles.
- Bookkeeper's last day will be Friday 15th.
- Mary Ann Otto is retiring. There will be a big retirement lunch for her on April 28th.
- Nadine and Chris are working on a way to fill the staffing gaps, following more of a bottom-up, collaborative approach. There will be opportunities for parish members to rise up. Council members can weigh in on staffing (structure).

3-5 year strategic plan: this will not happen in May as planned. A joint retreat with pastoral and finance councils is being considered to set the stage, and then prepare a full-day event in the fall.

Next meeting agenda items:

- Committee growth plans
- Nominations

Next meeting: May 3rd, 7pm - Community Room

Motion to approve: Angie Van Brocklin

Second: Keith Barth