

## PASTORAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 7:00 PM

Community Room

Attendees: Katie Biese Oleinic, Annie Guerts, Elsa Johnson, Kara Main, Tricia Miller, Beth Power, Angie Van Brocklin, Tracey Van Stippen, Chris Higgins, Mary Ann Otto, Nadine Duncan

Absent: Father Bill, Ted Suess, Lois Dennik, Keith Barth

### Opening Prayer

**Chris Higgins was introduced as the new business manager.** We are looking at revising the website. Chris is conducting a needs assessment to define requirements for the new website.

Key questions:

- What do you like and dislike about the website?
- Top 5 critical items to be on the parish website
- Wish list (things we probably are not doing now) – e.g. sponsorship opportunities
- Are there favorite websites or models that we could learn from?

[Beth will send around the questions and we can respond directly to Chris.](#) We should also forward on the questions or solicit feedback from our networks. Chris will compile the results and we can discuss at the next meeting. Aim to have a good set of requirements by the end of March.

### Discipleship month was debriefed.

- Feedback on all events was very positive.
- A variety of people attended across the various events, some groups smaller than others.
- The small groups worked well for getting into deeper discussions.
- Planning to send out feedback forms for the events:
  - What were your takeaways?
  - Where do we do next?
- Suggestion: also have sign in forms to see who is being touched by these
- Suggestion: can we capture some of the takeaways and get them to 'ripple' to parts of the parish, so people who can't attend can also benefit? Suggestions:
  - Record each event and keep it in a library for other small groups to use
  - Post on the website
  - Testimonials / takeaways from people who attended
  - Capture top several takeaways to be shared for at least quick access to the key messages

### Mary Ann Otto presented the plans for Ministry Month:

- Week 1: what is Ministry? "5 things to know" article. Will be sharing quotes and video witnesses from people in the parish who are involved in various ministries. Also will do a heart activity to recognize the gifts / service by others throughout the parish.

- Week 2: Identifying our own gifts. Zoom speaker Leisa Anslinger will discuss differences between strengths, gifts, etc.
- Week 3: Exploration of our own gifts. Discuss Leisa's event and further reflect on our spiritual gifts and where we can contribute. Will also share the opportunities for ministry that are available at St Marys.
- Week 4: Sign-up. We are working on figuring out how to make the opportunities more clear, available, and accessible all year round.
  - Suggestion: Make sure that we make these accessible in terms of language
  - Working at ways to provide more information to get people involved
- 5 things to know about ministry: ministry is service to our parish family; ministry is for everyone; ministry can be done in different ways; ministry has other impacts on the minister
  - Suggestions: "service" maybe is a bit churchy – perhaps "taking care of" is better

**A short preview was given for Lent and Mission month (March) by Nadine Duncan.**

Mission is the extension of love and taking care of the community outside the parish. Will link well with Lent. Some plans include virtual stations of the cross, and Lenten rice bowl for World Relief (refugee resettlement in the Fox Valley). Let Nadine know if you have any ideas.

**PLC nominations process (and operating structure) were discussed.**

- Parish 'norms' need to be reviewed and updated every 5 years, including parish council models for nominations
- Finishing their terms: Elsa Johnson, Katie Biese Oleinic, Tricia Miller, and Tracey Van Stippen
  - Also will need two youth representatives this year – need a better process for this; suggested that leveraging the mission / vision will draw in the youth
- Want to consider how the mission / vision can be better aligned with the council (in terms of the liaison roles, etc.). We want to move from just a 'reporting' model to more of an involvement / working model. Ideas:
  - Maybe we have job descriptions for the open liaison positions
  - Also need to work on instilling skills in the council – e.g. discernment process, etc.
  - Challenge is of course to avoid having 'favorites' or narrowing to a select group of people.
  - Make sure that people know that you can nominate yourself
  - Get the CTF to help get the word out about the nominations, early
- Beth shared examples of several models for parish councils to consider
- Considered whether we should have a subcommittee to investigate the nominations process and make some recommendations:
  - Suggested that we also consider our meeting structure and what are we trying to accomplish...e.g. have a more specific structure like a leadership retreat (joint retreat with finance council to align), annual parish meeting, committee meetings, etc.
  - Maybe this should be something that we take a little bit longer time to put together and do a large "re-vamp" of how the PLC operates

- Take time to better define roles and discernment process – use the rest of the year to work this out.
- Concluded: this is a larger issue than the nomination process, that we want to reflect on how we operate. Therefore we will table a subcommittee for now. Instead all members should review the documents shared (of the various models), start reflecting on what job descriptions may be, and be ready to discuss as a group next month.

**Other items:**

- **Farewell to Theresa** – had a nice event last week and gifted a 3-month membership to fitness club, and downtown Appleton giftcards, and Honeymoon Acres
- **Suggestions for March meeting**
  - Be ready for Elsa to take council member photos
  - Focus on the structure of how PLC operates, including nominations

**Next meeting:** March 1<sup>st</sup>, 7pm - Community Room

Motion to approve: Tracey Van Stippen

Second: Angie Van Brocklin