

Sacred Heart – St. Patrick Parish
Pastoral Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 7:15PM

Present via Go to Meeting: Chris Woodford, Rev. Jazdzewski, Kris Miller, Elaine Carlson, Chad Ronnander, Audrey Boerner, and Laura Miller.

Tonight's meeting was called to order by Chris Woodford at 7:22 PM. Rev led prayer after reading the Gospel from May 9, the 6th Sunday of Easter.

UPDATES

- Education Committee (Chad): The committee has not met. Their last meeting was pre-pandemic. Via various communications, they have been discussing what to do for next year. No decisions have been made. Researching who will be enrolling. There is a desire to hold classes in person next year. There is concern that the department will suffer without a coordinator, volunteer or paid.
- Family Life Committee (Kris): No meeting. Ideas and feedback from Council members' homework of talking to people will help form this committee's direction.
- Community Concerns Committee (Elaine): No updates. SHSP donates \$1,500 to Community Table. Weekend Kids' Meals asked for \$7,500, and the Parish contributed \$3,500. The Holy Thursday plate towards our obligations was only \$560, which falls short of our suggested support of these community services. How is budget worked out without any fundraisers? Feed My People is looking to expand and needs more money. If we don't have the funds, we cannot continue supporting these charities. The Finance Council may have some insights for the Parish Council.
- Finance Council (Rev. Jazdzewski): met tonight. Delays from City could postpone St. Patrick's parking lot construction until as late as July. Cemeteries' assessment Update: The Lutheran churches who have adjacent cemeteries and were also assessed have an attorney, who knows of an existing law that if a cemetery was started before a certain date, it cannot be assessed. So, Sharon is following that lead. 2020-2021's budget should be close to balancing. 2021-2022 will be about \$98,000 short. Discussion considered strategies to increase donations and income. A letter informing parishioners of the Parish's current financial state and encouraging consideration of increasing their support is planned for next week. Over the past three years, expenses have been decreased by \$150,000 so we are in much better shape. Parish must increase income because so much has been cut already. Need to get back to having a PC member attend FC then report to PC; this will increase transparency and communication.
- Sacred Worship Committee (Audrey): Minutes available for review. Please refer to that. Covid precautions still needed to be taken. Corpus Christi Procession 2021 is put on hold due to pandemic. Still recognize the feast day, just no procession.
- Compliance Committee: Compliance managers have met by email. There have been no new guidelines since July 2020. Considering lessening restrictive guidelines from CDC by reducing distance cordoned pews (every other rather than every third pew), decreasing amount and frequency of sanitization, decrease reliance on ushers. By July, reservations may not be required, nor signing in. Singing could be

reintroduced sometime this summer. Demand for vaccines is decreasing. There is a desire to be more welcoming while still following CDC, Diocesan, State and Local pandemic guidelines. The month of May has already been staffed for volunteers, so the plan is to gradually remove some elements of the current protocols: reservations, check in, spacing, sanitizing will be relaxed as conditions warrant and allow, possibly by the beginning of June. Throughout the pandemic, if people came to Mass and space was available, they could stay. No one has been turned away. More spots will be available in the building as distance requirements are reduced.

OLD BUSINESS

- Growing the Parish: Members were asked to interview at least 3 other parishioners, and possibly a non-parishioner, to ask “What do you want from your church/like about your church?” Members reported on and discussed their findings. Returning to liturgy and sacraments, building community through service and social events, strengthening bonds, re-invigorating faith formation for all parishioners, improving the Parish’s financial situation, adding singing to the music, and concern for our aging population were themes. Action plans resulting from this information were discussed and included but were not limited to increasing social interactions, both formal (events, activities) and informal (after Mass visiting), and to develop a plan to consider and meet fundraising needs (Bingo, Raffles, Capital Campaign).
- Strategic Plan Review: The Plan is a living, breathing document, which needs to be evaluated. This issue was revisited last November. With pandemic, that was put on hold. The Plan’s purpose was to re-invigorate the Parish and encourage growth. Parish enrollment numbers have dropped. Is the decrease due to changes or to pandemic? Have other parishes seen the same thing? More time might make difference. Projects including children’s liturgies, socials, and 2 hours twice monthly service to the Parish had begun to take root. No evaluation at this time. The issue will be re-introduced in October or November, post pandemic. Re-evaluate could be done with both Parish and Finance Councils, plus the Rebuilt group too. In August the Council will consider the details and implementation of the evaluation.
- Renovation Committee: Concerns expressed included the feasibility and success of fundraising, including a Diocesan Capital Campaign. The Reno Committee has provided a prioritized list of necessary improvements, which unfortunately have shockingly high bids. The timing of the renovation is proving challenging, due to pandemic, increasing construction costs, and turmoil in the Church. “Is it time to consider being a one church parish?” This question was posed at tonight’s Finance Council. Parish Council needs to consider and discuss the future of SHSP and all our buildings. Troy Betcher will patch front steps since they were damaged further by the contractor inspections. Priorities to keep buildings standing must be identified. In an effort to reduce costs, cuts in the scope of renovation are likely to be needed, necessities versus desires. Priorities include repair of front stairs and access to SH Church for all people, parking lot (tunnel) needs repair. Installing a lift instead of elevator saves a few thousand dollars, the outside structure to house either lift or elevator is the largest part of that project. The Sacred Heart Church sound problem needs to be addressed to enhance experience. Elaine will ask the Renovation Committee to present a prioritized project list and cost, including expected longevity of improvements, so a fundraising target can be established. (Minutes from joint mtg and bid from contractors has info for review). The Reno Committee will also be asked to explore pros/cons of one church, one rectory, etc. and look at what that might be. Which church is in best shape? What properties will bring best price? What projects do we want to look at completing?

NEW BUSINESS

- Position Hiring: Based on the Parish's current financial conditions, hiring a Faith Formation Coordinator and Communication Coordinator seems ill advised. With a projected budget shortfall of \$98,000, there is no income to staff these positions. The possibility of having a volunteer was considered. Current census indicates that we may have only 12 students in grades 1-5 next year. Liz can handle communication coordination, until the conditions improve.

In July, Rev will be on month long retreat. Coverage will be on weekends.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm with Rev. leading the Closing Prayer.

Next Meeting June 1, 2021.

Respectfully submitted by Myrthe McCarthy

