



# St. Matthias

CHURCH & SCHOOL

## Parish Council Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, August 3, 2021

**In attendance:** Tam Trinh, John Grant, Evens Jean-Raymond, Phil Callaghan, Fr. Tony Davis

### **Welcome:**

This was our first meeting of the 2021-22 year. The basic agenda was explained to our new member and the new member introduced himself to the group. A number of the new members were not in attendance. Fr. Tony will follow up with them and also request a brief biography from each of them.

Next, the council reviewed our Structure, which includes an overview, membership details, meetings, and duties of the council members. We also reviewed Flocknote, our primary means of communicating.

### **Calendar Update:**

Community Day: All parishioners and school families are invited to participate in a community day on Sunday, August 15, 2021, the Feast of the Assumption of Mary. Catholic Women's Association will be doing the ministries at the 11am mass, Haitians and Nigerians have mass that afternoon, and the Knights of Columbus will sponsor an ice cream social from 2:30-5:30pm that afternoon.

First Day of School is Wednesday, August 25

The Haitian Community is currently meeting for their Labor Day Festival on Monday, September 6 from noon – 8pm. They are looking at a soccer tournament, food, music, and a raffle. They are open to making it into a multi-ethnic festival in future years, with our Brazilian and Nigerian Communities represented and involved in the planning.

### **New Business**

The Strategic Plan Introduction: We reviewed and updated our 2021 Strategic Plan. In December 2021, parish council members will have a change to formulate new objectives. Our objectives for Goal 1 (increased culture of encounter) are both accomplished. The School Families were invited to a few gatherings in the Spring and we hope the momentum to include

the school families will continue. The Translators Group is accomplished, but other bi-lingual parishioners are encouraged to volunteer to help translate parish materials into the various languages used here. Goal 2 (growth in the number of engaged parishioners) is on track, especially with the August 15<sup>th</sup> Ice Cream Social. We would still like to consider a Christmas Breakfast with the Knights of Columbus. The second objective was dropped. Instead, we will use the Justice Ministry to get people visiting other parishioners in their homes. Being welcome into someone's home, especially of a different culture, can be an enriching experience and help overcome ethnic divides. Both objectives for Goal 3 (Financial Solvency) are accomplished. We look forward to the Finance Council functioning properly now that they have an official structure. They are aware of recruiting new members. Goal 4 (worship activities) are on track. The Liturgy Committee is meeting for the first time soon and there is talk of a ministry fair in the near future. While the Liturgy Committee would ask all the liturgical ministry people to be present with a booth, they would be willing to open it up for all parish groups to have a booth. As for the second objective of a Lenten mission, that is on hold due to the pandemic. The parish is open to having outside speakers throughout the year.

**Real Presence, Real Future:** This Fall, the parish council is prepared to attend a few additional meetings to help moderate a discussion from the Catholic Leadership Institute and our parishioners. Council members saw our parish workbook briefly. More information of what is expected of us to come. The more organized we are, the better chances we have of taking on more responsibilities in the restructuring.

**Justice Ministry:** Phil reported on the development of a Justice Ministry at the Church. Phil and Tom Vargo have been trained this past week to lead the ministry as team leaders. A justice ministry is the next step in our mission- we do prayer and charity, now justice. This ministry uses 1 on 1 meetings and house meetings to form relationships. Our house meetings this first year may be held in common at the church.

**Book Study in October/November:** Fr. Tony will lead a book study this Fall for the parishioners. We will read the book the Parish Council read together last year, *Beyond Colorblind* by Sarah Shin. It talks about how each of us have an ethnic identity that was created good, damaged by sin, and restored by Christ. These discussions are important to have since we are a multiethnic parish and we inherit many prejudices from our world.

### **Open Comments**

**Selection of a Facilitator and Recorder:** We delayed selection of these positions, as half of the council was absent. We will select them in September.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, September 7 at 7pm