

St. Thomas More Pastoral Council Meeting

April 9, 2017; 7:00 pm Final

1900 Call to Order

Members in Attendance: Pam Bourjaily, Beth Deninger, Joan Garrity, Charles Heine, Keith Less, Bill Mausser, Larry Posey, Lou Ann Montgomery, Cathy Nepola, Kim Schmitz, Norma Ward

Members Excused: Katelyn Murhammer, Father Page, Ron Conner

Members Absent: Riley Brunk

- A. Sunday Scripture Reading and Opening Prayer provided by Beth Deninger
- B. Review of March 9, 2017 meeting – Approval motion for approval by Beth, seconded by Cathy, Vote, all in favor, no nays, motion carries.

Announcements –

1. **Annual Diocesan Appeal Update-** Norma reported that our assessment for 2016/2017 was met. If all pledges are paid, we will receive a refund of \$5,930. Norma asked the Finance Commission to consider applying the refund money to the north entrance proposal. They said they would take it under consideration.
2. **Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Opportunity Update –** Norma reminded us that Social Justice is organizing another STM Group Habitat event this year. This year rather than committing to a specific project, volunteers would instead pick a day with Habitat. Habitat will supply the location for volunteers to work on a given day. Look for more bulletin information. Tentative dates mentioned were 6/10, 7/8, 8/5 (all Saturdays).
3. **Regina Campaign Weekend April 29-30, 2017.** Representatives for Regina will be talking at each of the masses during the April 29-30 weekend as part of Regina's fundraising activity. They plan on passing out leaflets with pencils during Mass so that parishioners can make their pledges at that time or mail in if more convenient.

C. Meeting Business

Old Business

a. Feedback from the March 5th Workshop with Tom Persoon.

Discussion: One of the projects identified was the development of a welcoming committee for STM. With Tom's assistance, we hope to develop and launch a "Welcome" program as previously discussed.

This ministry will remain within the control of the council. Once the kinks are worked out, we expect to possibly incorporate this ministry into the Worship and Spirituality Committee or hopefully collaboratively incorporate this ministry into all our present committees, but we have a lot of work to do prior to this occurring.

Action: Norma will be coordinating efforts with Tom but she plans on devoting our next meeting to development of this program. If you would like to assist please send Norma an email, but bring some brainstorming ideas to the May meeting. **(open)**

b. Select Pastoral Council candidate election weekend—May 6,7

Discussion: Parish Elections. Member summary retiring or re-election. This year the open positions include:

1. Pastoral Council Election candidates:

Tracy Clapp
Leigha Rios
Dimy Doresca
Ann Elsbecker
Ann Houlahan
Shirley Schneider

2. Regina Board of Education Election candidate:

Janan Rustan

Action: We hope to have this list finalized soon.

3. Election Committee—Norma Ward, Cathy Nepola and Kim Schmitz

Discussion: In accordance with STM election bylaw, the counting of ballots must be conducted by a third party outside the realm of the council. The council does have to provide oversight during the counting process to assure that we remain consistent with our identified bylaws. Once the ballots have been counted and a winner is identified, Cathy or Kim will contact Norma with the results and she will contact or email the pastor as well as all the candidates with the election results. Norma will also facilitate with the office to get the results published in the bulletin.

Actions: Informational. Volunteer names were provided to Norma for the third party counting. **(on-going)**

4. Washing of the Feet—Sign-up for Thursday, April 13, 2017

Discussion: Holy Thursday will be April 13, 2017. Norma has one open spot remaining but shared that if not filled she has a plan for meeting the need.

Action: Thanks for those who signed up. **(closed)**

5. Team Implementing North Entrance

Discussion: Team members for the North Entrance will be Keith Less, Norma Ward, Brian Manternach, Kent Campion and Sheila Goins.

Action: Project starting after Pastoral elections. **(open)**

D Reports – provided by email

- a. Church/Family Life Commission-no meeting/no report
- b. Finance Council Meeting Minutes Highlights
- c. Regina Update
- d. Religious Education Report
- e. Social Justice/Action Meeting Minutes
- f. Worship and Spirituality DRAFT Meeting Minutes
- g. Youth Ministry Report

New Business

1. Father Page's new assignment.

Discussion: Fr. Page's last weekend at STM will be June 17-18. We will be having a locum pastor for June 24-2 with Fr. Chuck Adam starting the weekend of July 1-2. Farewell committee has been formed and they will plan a parish farewell for Fr. Page after the 1100 Mass on June 18th. This is also Father's Day weekend, so we already know there will be a lot of things already planned but Norma wanted to let us know so we can get it on our calendar. This also coincides with Fr. Page's 30th anniversary of the priesthood so we will be hosting this as a combined event.

Once Fr. Adam is here, the committee will be planning a welcome celebration for him. They want to wait until he is here so he can provide some idea of how he wishes to celebrate his new assignment.

Action: Informational. The committee has not decided on a gift as of yet so if anyone has an idea please let Norma know and she will pass it along. **(open)**

2. Youth Member Representative to the Pastoral Council for 2017-2018

Discussion: 2017-2018: Grace Christopher is offered for consideration to join Riley Brunk as our next year's Youth Member to the Pastoral Council.

D. Action: Council voted, all in favor, no nays, motion carries to accept Grace Christopher as our new Youth Member. Welcome Grace. **(closed)**

3. New budget process:

Discussion: The new budget process has been initiated and sent to commissions requesting them to provide funding their requests for funding for the FY 2017-2018. There requests will be provided back to the finance council where a subcommittee will evaluate the request and roll it into the STM budget for the next year. Prior to it being finalized, the council will be provided the recommended budget prior to it being finalized by the finance board. This has been a requested change in process to the Parish Council so we are pleased to be given the opportunity to see and comment on the budget before it is finalized in May or June.

Along with the budget request the Commissions have also been requested to provide an audit of activities to the finance board. This is routinely conducted when parishes get reassigned a new pastor.

Action: Informational **(open)**

4. AV sound system.

Discussion: During the financial committee's review of minutes, it was brought up that when the AV system problems get resolved, the parish may want to have additional trained personnel to problem solve with the AV system. We appreciate the efforts of Judy, but since she is not here during every mass time, the need to problem solve during peak times may be needed. It was unknown if a user manual is available if needed.

Action – This discussion may be premature but as we resolve our AV sound system problems, the council wanted to bring forward this discussion in order to be proactive vs. reactive should potential issues arise. **(closed)**

5. Bread for the World

Discussion: Kim shared that over the past week she had the opportunity to visit an out of the diocese parish and wanted to share her observation of a unique letter writing campaign. She brought back a flyer with "Bread for the World" information. Bread for the World's mission is the offering of a letter writing campaign that engages churches, campuses, and other faith communities to write letters to Congress. Each year, the focus of the campaign is specific legislation or a legislative emphasis that can make a real difference to people struggling with hunger and poverty.

People write letters, usually as a group, and present them as an offering to God before mailing them to Congress. Hundreds of Offerings of Letters are held each

year, resulting in tens of thousands of letters to Congress. Supported with prayer, these letters are a bold witness to God's justice and mercy. They have, and continue to have, a significant impact on the decisions made in Congress.

Action: Informational, Norma will be forwarding this information onto the Social Justice Committee for evaluation. **(closed)**

6. Potential agenda items for next meeting: May 11, 2017

1. Welcome Team start-up.
2. Bulletin revamp?
3. Send other agenda items by April 29, 2017
4. Sunday Scriptural Readings and Prayer for May 11 meeting—
Charles Heine

Reminder: June 1st meeting is our transition meeting for new members. New members will attend orientation at 630 PM with our meeting at 7 PM. After the meeting, members and spouses are all welcomed to Gus' Restaurant off 965 and Oakland Boulevard, as a welcome and farewell reception. Norma will provide basic drinks and some appetizers but stronger refreshments and meals will be at the expense of members.

Closing prayer provided by Beth Deninger

Meeting ended - 1953