# 2/23/22

**Church of the Redeemer - Pastoral Council**

7:00 p.m. - 8:40 p.m*. In person*

**Mission statement:** Everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. John 13:35

**Vision statement:** Through worship, service, community, and Word we strive to bring all people close together and closer to God.

**Present:**, Larry Cunningham, John Swierczewski, Dennis Fiore, Don Piacentini, Jennifer Kocik, Bill Adams, Laura Woodle, Norm Carter, Tom Grasberger (Finance Council), Fr. Jim Cowles, Shirley Husz, Deacon Chris Colville, Paula Otto (Facilitator)

**Absent:**, Reagan Penny (Stewardship Committee), , Renee Reisenweaver (PC and Youth & Young Adult Ministry), Jessica Keck, Dan Corso

**Opening Prayer:** Our Father

**Faith Formation:** (Chris Coville)

**Approval of minutes**

Approval of January Minutes by email. January minutes posted on Redeemer website.

**Committee Reports**:

**Finance Council Report: (**Tom Grasberger)

Finance Council is working on 2022/23 budget

Income is running slightly over budget.

Carpet in the church will be replaced after Easter. Cost <$20,000. We have received significant gifts to offset the cost for the new carpet. (Updated – To be replaced before Easter)

The worship space and several of the other facilities roofs are leaking and need to be replaced. The decision is to replace all the roofs at the same time. Estimated cost is $175,000 although not all bids are in. It is anticipated we will need a capital campaign to offset the cost of the roof replacement.

**Stewardship Report**: (Reagan Penny)

The Stewardship Committee’s current focus is the Bishops Appeal, which kicks off this weekend.  Next will be the adding My Own Church to the website, exploring all the tools and then educating and encouraging parishioners to members to sign up.

**Staff Report:** (Chris Coville)

Reviewed Lenten items: Ash Wednesday Services, Lenten Reflection Booklet, and daily Morning Prayer (Zoom) at 7AM during Lent

Other topics: Primetimers St. Patrick’s Day luncheon, Haiti Solidarity weekend, Redeemer’s participation in “Night to Shine”, the Shawl Ministry is active and have many prayer shawls available, No Room at the Inn has generated over $325,000 over 14 years to support housing in the greater Richmond area and Haiti

Redeemer has 22 Conformation Candidates who will be confirmed on June 5th at the Cathedral.

**Fr. Jim’s Report:**

Topics covered earlier in the meeting.

**Pastoral Council Elections:**

Talks will be held before masses on the weekend of February 26/27 to explain PC responsibilities and ask parishioners to start thinking about running or nominating someone for the Council. Four new Council members will be elected in June. Nominations will be requested in late April or early May.

**Strategic Planning and Bucket List:**

Pastoral Council has been looking at possible short- and long-term facility additions.

We have reviewed ideas with Fr. Jim and recommend improved signage on Meadowbridge Road (short term). Some research on what Hanover County will allow, is the sign on our property or an easement and estimated cost.

Longer term possible additions include a columbarium which would be self-funded. Redeemer would need to work thru the diocese which currently also requires a certain number of in-ground plots along with the columbarium. Other longer-term facilities that may be considered are building a chapel/pastoral place for quiet reflection, an outdoor pavilion, and a portico for the entrance to the church. The columbarium and chapel have been considered before, but are still of interest and will be looked at again. These are all possible projects for consideration and planning for the next 3-5 years.

Communications remain high on PC objectives and how to improve communications. Our staff does a very good job communicating, but these efforts are in addition to their current job in the parish. Potential consideration to add a part time marketing/communications staff person depending on well defining the responsibilities of that position and could we financially afford that position. Do we know what is most effective for different demographics? Other ideas would be to have ministries speak for two minutes every few months before mass or produce a two-minute talk for Facebook. Produce materials for distribution or display when we have events at the church such as the Haiti Yard Sale, the Craft Bizarre and No Room at the Inn.

We should continue to have mass on Facebook. It offers Redeemer’s mass to many people especially the homebound and those still uncomfortable being around too many people. We should encourage those who want to receive communion but are concerned about the number of people at mass, to attend noon mass on Monday and/or Wednesday where there are fewer attendees. One idea is to provide more information about Redeemer before or after online masses. These could include previews of the readings/gospel and more detail on upcoming events.

Faith formation. We have a lot of groups that get together regularly and the presentations by Deacons Ron and Chris and Fr. Jim are well received, but the idea was to expand these. Things like Rosary Rallies and programs focused on the sacraments. Could be like the presentation Fr. Jim gave on the mass.

Other items being considered are having a couple of festivals a year for the Redeemer Community. Things like St Patrick’s Day festival, Octoberfest, other. Possibly expand the wider Mechanicsville community to the outside community in the future. This is an ongoing discussion.

PC continues to try to figure out how to get Catholics back into churches. Discussed how the Synod Listening sessions are going and briefly how to reach out and engage the 82% of Catholics that are not regularly active in the church.

**Liaisons:**

Art and Environment (Kristi Lane) - Shirley

Liturgy and Worship (Erin Woods) –

Human Concerns (Diane Atkins) – Dennis

Stewardship (Reagan Penny) – Dan

Finance Council (Jan Moritz) – Don

Youth/RE (Renee Reisenweaver) -

**Feedback from parishioners**:

None were brought to the council at this meeting.

**New / Other Business**

None

**Closing Prayer:**  Closed with Our Father

**Next Meeting Date**: March 23, 2022