

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

MEETING INFORMATION

Date: October 26, 2016- 7:23 p.m.

Location: Church of the Redeemer, Mechanicsville, VA

ATTENDANCE

Pastoral Council Members

- Ellen Spain, Chairperson – Present
- Marilyn Alfaro – Not Present
- Peggy Anderton – Present
- Carolyn Brand - Present
- Donnie Gladfelter – Present
- Maria Harris - Present
- Dave Hopper - Present
- John Kadukammakal – Present
- Brian Goulet- Not Present
- Jackie Linklater - Present
- Jesse Lopez - Present
- Jane Nucup – Present

Clergy

- Father Jay Wagner – Present
- Deacon Chris Colville – Not Present

Other Representatives

- Loraine Tracy-
Staff Liaison
- Tom Grasberger –
Finance Council Liaison

MEETING MINUTES

I. Opening Prayer

Jesse Lopez opened the meeting in prayer.

II. Faith Formation – Council Attended Evening Prayer

III. Reports

Finance Council Report – Tom Grasberger

- Collections are marginally up through the end of September, placing the overall Parish budget in line with expectations.
- Council is considering the definition of Major Expense In lieu of Maintenance Expense to better guide it on application of Repair and Maintenance funds, Contingency Funds.
- Significant repairs and maintenance are anticipated for the Rectory. Finance Council is in the process of soliciting bids, and prioritizing the necessary repairs.
- A discussion regarding how the parish budget is established on an annual budget was held. While the finance council does not consider budgets for individual ministries, the YOY allocations for individual cost centers is generally maintained from year-to-year.

Pastor Report – Father Jay Wagner

- Masses to be held at 9:30am and 7:00pm on All Saints Day (Nov 1), and 7:00 pm on All Souls Day (Nov 2). There will be a blessing of bricks during the All Souls Day mass.
- A Mass is planned for the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. This is an addition.
- The Diocese has sent a notice regarding burials and cremations. Vatican has revised guidelines regarding cremation to state Catholics may be cremated, however their remains should be interred (not placed on a mantle or scattered). These guidelines raise the question of whether Redeemer needs a columbarium.
- Trunk or Treat is scheduled for Sunday.

IV. Review of Committee Reports

Art and Environment - Carolyn Brand

- Liturgical consultant Tom Kerns is preparing renderings based on space prioritizations established by the A&E committee.
- Committee had spoken to parishioner Bill Reiner. Bill wrote a letter to council requesting a statue of a Mary.
- Ellen has reached out to Leroy so the Art and Environment committee can meet with Youth council and gather their input.
- Electronic plans of the building will be necessary in future phases, but do not currently exist. The committee is leveraging resources to have hardcopy plans converted into an electronic format.
- Several committee members will attend the Diocesan Sacred Spaces Workshop at the end of the month. A meeting with Tom Kerns is expected at the end of November contingent upon his visitation schedule with St. Bede.

Evangelization – Lorraine Tracey

- Committee attended a diocesan workshop on the second stage of the Diocesan Evangelization Plan, and received several insights into how to proceed with the plan at Redeemer.
- The Diocesan Evangelization Plan was initially rolled out as a five-year plan, but was revised into a five-stage plan. The second stage Redeemer is about to begin focused on the domestic church.
- Among the questions being asked by the committee are how does the parish communicate that all are welcome at Redeemer? How is that message communicated to those not attending church?

Stewardship

- Committee is currently evaluating whether the Called and Gifted program is worth bringing to the parish, and plans to present its findings at the next Pastoral Council meeting.
- Commitment and Time and Talent forms remain a challenge for the committee. The response rate has continued to decline, and several breakdowns in the

process of managing responses has been identified. The committee is currently evaluating the financial element of addressing some of these challenges.

- While a parishioner database (Parish Data System) is maintained by the parish office, the information is not currently hosted online. The diocese is piloting a cloud-based system with a select number of parishes. Assuming the pilot program is successful, Redeemer will likely begin using the new system by the end of 2017.
- Committee is preparing for the Ministry Leader Retreat and Prayer Service on February 15, 2017. A Ministry Fair is planned for the weekend of May 20th and the 21st, 2017.

RE and Youth

- Preschool and elementary programs are well underway with ~125 children attending weekly sessions.
- Elementary session recently hosted its first Family Spirit Day of the year where parents joined their children to learn about the bible.
- First Reconciliation preparations are underway with a current enrollment of about 34 children.
- A date for the Confirmation liturgy is expected shortly.
- Youth Mass is planned for October 23rd. A youth work day is planned for October 29th, and will focus on repairing the storage sheds.
- The council would like to reinstitute the youth minute at Mass to present announcements about youth-related events.
- The youth council has expressed an interest in leveraging social media to promote upcoming activities to both Catholic and non-Catholic peers.
- In addition to the closing Martin's stores, many businesses are tightening their fundraising parameters. These changes are having an impact on youth program funding, and the group is currently evaluating other avenues for fundraising.
- A youth lock-in is being discussed, and tentatively planned for January 6th or 7th. Attendance of no less than 35 is necessary for the event to be financially feasible.

Human Concerns

- Be-Frienders: Staff recently met with two local churches who are interested in starting this ministry. Staff shared information and recourses on this ministry, including its benefits and challenges.
- Caritas: Redeemer was approached about hosting Caritas during the week of Christmas. While the use of Genesis hall for Christmas liturgies precluded Redeemer from being able to help, the parish has offered to assist churches hosting that week. Redeemer will host Caritas again in May.
- Haiti: With the devastation caused by the hurricane, the parish plan for its upcoming trip may change to assist with relief efforts. Redeemer is currently awaiting information from the diocese and the local town in Haiti to make any necessary changes.
- Faith Build: Redeemer hosted the World Habitat Prayer Day event on October 6th. A speaker will join Redeemer for Masses during the last weekend of October to raise awareness and funds through a second collection for Faith Build.
- No Room: The parish is actively seeking new sponsors for No Room at the Inn. Information is being shared on the parish website and Facebook pages.
- Stamping Angels: The ministry sold cards for all occasions after masses during the weekend of October 15/16, yielding a profit of over \$600.
- WOW: First visit was on September 9-11. Redeemer volunteers worked at the Remote Area Medical (RAM) clinic that served over 500 patients during the weekend. Volunteers also attended the small parish and discussed plans for the twinning effort.

Liturgy and Worship

- Thanks to the generosity of Joe and Louise Brows, the parish purchased a holy water bucket and aspergillum for sprinkling rites at funerals and other occasions
- Thanksgiving Mass will be held on Wednesday, November 23rd at 7:00 pm.

V. Chair

- Good News article for December is Peggy Anderton
- Pastoral Council Reports will be due November 8th
- The Christmas gathering in December with Finance Council/Stewardship Council will be December 15, 2016 @ 6:30 p.m.
- Follow up to Plenary Session and Vision
 - Evangelization will form a sub-committee for: Efforts are made to reach out to the alienated, the inactive, and the un-churched.
An effort is made to provide the special needs of those who might feel excluded from parish life at some point; young people, single adults; minorities; the separated and divorced; single parents; the widowed; the LGBT community; the physically or mentally challenged; the homebound and the elderly.
 - Committee being formed for: The parish has a plan for regular personal visits with parishioners from which they gain their feedback.
- Regina is working towards receiving new bids for the doors.

VI. Old Business

- The Pastoral Council Constitution has been revised. Council adopted the revision.

VII. New Business

- Lifecycle of a Parishioner –Donnie Gladfelter
A discussion was led by Donnie Gladfelter regarding strategies for increasing parishioner involvement throughout their faith journey. Specifically challenging the council to think of ways to make evangelization a part of every program and ministry at Redeemer.

Closing Prayer

- Meeting concluded in prayer led by Jessie Lopez at 9:13 p.m.