

Church of St. Paul – Comfrey
Administrative Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. – Church basement

Members present: Fr. Steffl, Fr. Sam, Jim Rathman, Matt Eischen, Marianne Schotzko, Connie Kelly,
Darrell Platz, Judy Augustin, Denice Evers, Dan Davis, Nellie Richter – Secretary

Absent: Dale McMullen, Matt Grausam

Meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Chairman Rathman. Fr. Steffl led group in prayer.

There were no additions or corrections to Agenda.

No additions or corrections to Meeting Minutes of 7/15/21. M/S/C Schotzko, Evers to approve as read.

Financials for July & August: Fr Steffl read Grausam's note on the bottom of one of the pages. Fr. Steffl has put together a letter regarding our increased budget, asking parishioners to consider giving more in their contributions. This letter will be handed out this weekend with the remainder of letters sent out. A contribution statement through August will also be included with the letter. Father explained that there are no extravagant expenses in our parish that bumped up the budget. Council members thought the letter was worded very well. Fr. said he divided the expenses softly on Missionary rooming costs. Evers asked why Church Dinner Income was \$32K, as it usually is around \$17K for profit? Father explained that there are Income and Expense lines now – we used to have just a Net account years ago. M/S/C Evers, Platz to accept financials.

Old Business:

Cameras not installed yet by Sleepy Eye Electric – Fr. Steffl will check into this.

Schotzko reported that the 2 cornerstone paintings done by Brian Callanan have been placed on either side of the main doors of church proper. Three stores were checked for glass-enclosed cases. Decided to leave where they are with no cases.

North entrance repair, which is our 2020 DMA project: Jon Vogel looked at and gave bid for repairing and painting, but also felt that it should be covered by our insurance. John Urlaub, Catholic Mutual Insurance, was contacted, and if it is covered, we would have to pay \$1000 deductible. Vogel also gave a separate quote for the areas under the windows in church – back of church up to where the side wings start. Some members felt the paint failure/bubbling was also due to the old roof and water issues. Richter will contact Urlaub. Basement drywall water damage from August 28th storms should also be sent to Urlaub. Eischen feels we should get on Vogel's schedule. M/S/C Eischen, Kelly to get on schedule but need to check into other issues also.

Water issue with Doug Steffl: Fr. Steffl talked with Urlaub about one week ago about this – not really a liability issue and since it is not caused by new construction of the church, we are not really obligated to do anything. Fr. Steffl talked with Eischen on possible options as well. John Urlaub will be here soon to look at situation. Eischen spoke with Heiderscheidt's again and tiling to sewer is best option, but cost has increased from 2 years ago, which was \$10K then, with cost to be shared between church and Steffl. Boone, City Maintenance, prefers not digging up asphalt before winter. Second Option: Heiderscheidt suggests running a laser and running gravel higher on the west side of alley so water will travel down the alley to the street. Eischen would like to work with Doug Steffl in a respectful manner.

Food Safety Training – haven't heard anything from them yet.

Evergreen trees were removed on 7/21/21 by Ryan Tree Service. Jim Rathman is working on the weeds.

Rectory porch doors, back garage fascia and window trim, back steps: Projects were completed by Jim Rathman and Schotzko's – Thanks to them for volunteering their time! Rathman drained the water heaters and will check the water softeners. Schotzko said that Stan will take care of tuck-pointing the Rectory foundation and will order the mix from Clements Lumber. Should probably run a dehumidifier in the Rectory basement – bring this up in the spring.

Church Dinner Update: Letters asking for donations for prizes were sent out in August, food items are getting ordered and raffle and dinner tickets have been ordered.

Farmward Cooperative contracts for LP and fuel oil were approved and signed by Fr. Steffl.

Vacation Bible School donation check of \$200 for wear and tear of building was sent to New Hope.

Church basement storage room: Eischen borrowed a large dehumidifier with pump for church to use – ran 60-70% when started, but went down to 40-45% as of today. It ran 23 out of 24 hours since the rain we had. New dehumidifier was ordered with pump – using Kurt Eischen's and Jim Rathman's dehumidifiers until new one arrives.

Conduit on North side of church was removed by Eischen.

New Business:

Religious Education – Dan Davis: Will have 2 First Communicants and 3 Confirmation students this year. AFC Confirmation at St. Mary's will be March 13, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. Valley Fair server appreciation trip was August 12th. Religious Ed classes started here September 8th – students are split into 4 classrooms. Erin Eischen helped head our program this year. Can always use more teachers to divide up classes even more. Trying to provide the best program we can for students, parents and parish.

CCW by Schotzko: Had mass prior to meeting on September 2nd. Service Projects are HOLT International and CRISIS Pregnancy Center. Fall Gathering will be in Redwood Falls. October 3rd will be Respect Life Sunday. October 10th will be CCW Sunday, and will serve donuts and coffee after our mass. Phantom Bake Sale will go from October 10-31. There are 7 heavy tables – CCW is looking at replacing 3 – trying to match what we have now (cream mocha from Samsonite). Fr. Jerry Paulson is our Shepherd in the Field. Christmas Party is scheduled for December, but will talk about it more at October meeting.

Liturgy by Augustin: May start choir practices soon. Liturgical Environment by Schotzko: Nothing to report. No Cemetery Report – Plan to have a meeting in October.

M/S/C Evers, Schotzko to designate our DMA Project for this coming year for an outdoor sign for church and maintenance.

Water issue in basement following 8/28/21 storms: Eischen said there are no leaf guards/screens on the gutters/downspouts so wondering if leaves and debris went down into the sump pump, clogged, and that is why we had back up of water in basement. No screens on the gutters are a concern. Nickel Construction has camera for tiling. Eischen will call them on possibly running their camera through the downspouts/piping that runs underground to check for any problems.

Fr. Steffl comes over the last Wednesday of every month to do Home-Bound visits.

Next meeting will be Thursday, November 11th at 6:30 p.m.

Fr. Steffl led group in closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nellie Richter - Secretary