

**The Church of the Transfiguration
Parish Pastoral Council Minutes
September 14, 2015**

Attendance: G.A. Sheller, Craig Rand, Dave Donnelly, Gerry Gacioch, Joey Campagna, Bob Fien, Maria Herrera, Shannon Kozarits, Lori Goorman, Laura Cutter, Ted Rohrer, Damian Zynda, Sarah Pickhardt, Michael Bausch and Ron Jodoin.

1. The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. Fr. Mike led the Opening Prayer.
2. All present introduced themselves.
3. The minutes of the June 8 meeting were unanimously approved.
4. **Moderator's Remarks:** Craig reminded everyone that council members are eyes and ears for Fr. Mike. He asked everyone to consider the strengths and weaknesses, or areas that need improvement, of the parish in preparation for discussion at the October meeting.
5. Open Forum for parishioners to address the council – no parishioner comments.

6. Pastor's remarks:

- a. Facilities Projects - The inside of the church and the education center have been painted. Audio/Visual improvements are projected to cost about \$30,000. These include bringing a/v to the babysitting room; the conduit is already in place. The two projectors in the church will be replaced, and a new one will be used to project on the back wall for those who sit in front and face the congregation. A camera will be installed above the vestry focused on the altar. It can be used to stream live events on the internet as needed. The computer server was upgraded.
- b. Funeral Preplanning – About a dozen folks have already taken advantage of this opportunity which was suggested last year. It helps to take the stress off families, and further workshops will be held.
- c. Staff Reflections – These have been taking place after communion since February. Anne, Damian, Don, Margie and Tim are all qualified to do this, and there have been many positive comments. It was remarked that the placement is “clunky,” but there is no way around this.

Fr. Mike thanked Damian for putting together a great adult education program.

The office will be closed September 21 and 22 for staff development. It will be facilitated by an SSJ and clinical psychologist from Albany and will take place at the SSJ motherhouse. The focus will be on how we can be a better leadership team and how we can implement changes to do this.

7. Financial Year-End Report – Sarah Pickhardt distributed a budget summary for 2014-15 and the budget for 2015-16. Some changes from previous reports were noted and explained. These were due to using a new accounting system for the first time. Last year ended with a \$40,085.31 surplus, \$30,000 of which was transferred to the Facilities Fund. The first meeting of Finance Council will be in October.

8. Agenda Issues for the Upcoming Year:

The Middle East refugee problem – Joey asked if there is something that we can do, and what is the US church doing. Fr. Mike said that the Catholic Family Center is the official resettlement agency for upstate NY. Damian said that the US bishops and cardinals are currently wrapped up in the immigration issue. We need a full-time person for our Justice and Peace outreach. Dave suggested that we need to pray more publicly for these refugees.

G. A. suggested that we bring more of what Pope Francis is saying and doing to the people.

Laura noted that we need to build our volunteer base. It was mentioned that this is on the staff's agenda. Craig asked about how we turn over the church to the next generation.

9. Staff report on their area of ministry: Christian Formation – Damian said that this year's program grew from an awareness of tension in relationships. She teaches every other year. The bulk of her work

day-to-day is in spiritual direction for people who are making or have made the Ignatian retreat. She gets much support from several people who are trained to do this. Later in September she will be making a pilgrimage to Spain to visit several Ignatian sites. Damian noted that the spiritual life of the parish has grown since her position was formed. She thanked Don for Vacation Bible School and Anne for the NCYC, both of which are the biggest groups ever.

10 Cluster Reports:

Peace and Justice – Bob Fien

a. The Coordinating Group along with potential future leaders will have a day-long retreat on October 17. It will focus on the spiritual dimension of peace and justice work.

b. All elements of the Portland Ave. Ministry plan have been completed, and a transition plan will be developed to turn over all activities to people in the neighborhood. We are looking for another church like St. Andrews to develop a relationship like this ministry.

c. Roc/ACTS is an organization of parishes that addresses issues in the city. They have a grant to fund an early childhood development program, and would like Transfiguration to participate in their oversight council. We are pursuing this possibility.

Youth – Ted announced that Destiny begins on September 15.

Following the closing prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm. The next meeting will be October 12, 2015 at 7 p.m. in the Double Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Jodoin, substituting for Martha