

St. Christopher Catholic Church

Pastoral Council

Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2017

1 Call to Order

- 1.1 Margaret Bauer, Chairperson, called to order the Regular Meeting of the St. Christopher Pastoral Council at 7:00 pm EDT on August 17, 2017 in the Bethany Room.
- 1.2 The following persons were present: Margaret Bauer, David Ciechanowicz, Mike Clouse, Jim Csenar, Tom Edwards, Jim McMechan, Vicki Murphy, Mary Ann O'Neal, Fr. Paul Shikany, Anne Thompson, Fr. Matt Tucci, Pat Tutsie and Betsy Weddle.

2 Opening Prayer

- 2.1 Margaret Bauer led the group in an opening prayer.

3 Prayer Volunteer for Next Meeting

- 3.1 Mary Ann O'Neal volunteered to lead the opening and closing prayers in September.

4 Acceptance of Minutes

- 4.1 Tom Edwards distributed an electronic copy of the June meeting minutes via e-mail prior to this meeting. The June meeting minutes were approved unanimously, as presented.

5 Staff/Ministry Reports

5.1 Pastors' Reports

5.1.1 Fr. Paul Shikany

- 5.1.1.1 Fr. Paul waived his report due to the full agenda.

5.1.2 Fr. Matt Tucci

- 5.1.2.1 A survey would be going out to get feedback on a Young Adults Program.

- 5.1.2.2 Links to the survey will be provided in various locations.

- 5.1.2.3 Mike Clouse recommended the use of social media to garner interest and reach a broader audience. Vicki Murphy agreed, and provided additional information to Fr. Matt regarding strategies, methods and potential uses. Vicki indicated that the parish has an inactive Facebook page that can be revived if someone wishes to maintain it.

- 5.1.2.4 The group will target those in their 20's and 30's.

5.2 Financial Report

5.2.1 Jim McMechan

- 5.2.1.1 Sunday collections are up over the previous YTD by approximately 3%

- 5.2.1.2 Collections were down the weekends of Festival and Brickyard, which contributed to lower than forecasted income during July.

- 5.2.1.3 Online giving participation continues to increase. This will eventually provide a more consistent cash flow.

- 5.2.1.4 Festival net revenue has not yet been finalized.

6 Committee Reports

6.1 Campus Security

6.1.1 Mike Clouse

6.1.1.1 Mike distributed a draft/outline of the Emergency Response Plan

6.1.1.2 Mike recommends numbering all of the exterior doors on campus. Fr Paul indicated that this is in the works, at least in a temporary manner.

6.1.1.3 Mike asked if the local dispatch phone number was posted. Fr Paul said 911 dialed from a cell phone now goes directly to Speedway.

6.1.1.4 Fr Paul informed the group that the school recently had an active shooter drill.

6.1.1.5 Discussion took place regarding ushers and their training. It was pointed out that there is currently only one usher team, and that the rest are volunteers pulled from the pews. There needs to be more organization of ushers before training can be effective.

6.1.1.6 Tom Edwards is working on new Evacuation Maps for all campus buildings.

6.1.1.7 Jim Csenar asked if there would be a muster area, or areas, designated in the Plan. Mike said this is being addressed and that it would vary by building and event.

6.1.1.8 Mary Ann suggested contacting local schools to see what their current plans include for weather events, since schools have large open areas – gyms – that are similar to a church.

6.2 Board Development

6.2.1 Margaret Bauer

6.2.1.1 Margaret said it had been previously discussed that the Council should all attend a group dinner one evening, as a “get to know each other” event. Everyone agreed this would be a good idea. Date TBD.

7 New Business

7.1 State of the Parish

7.1.1 Fr. Paul Shikany

7.1.1.1 Fr Paul distributed a State of the Parish report assembled by Tina Koenen.

7.1.1.2 Fr Paul explained that the old data is artificially high because records were never deleted from the database as parishioners left the parish.

7.1.1.3 Fr Paul said that when he arrived at St Chris, there were approximately 1400 families, not 2600. The Archdiocese only has information that’s reported by parishes, so their statistics are also incorrect.

7.1.1.4 The new data is accurate, and will be maintained. It can be used to track trends going forward.

7.1.1.5 Pat Tutsie asked Fr Paul what his thoughts were after looking at the numbers. Fr Paul said his concern is with 70% of parishioners being from outside the parish boundaries. Many come from the west side. As demographics change, people will begin attending churches closer to home as they age, and as their children reach school age.

7.2 Steeple Repairs

7.2.1 Margaret Bauer reminded everyone that the steeple has suffered severe damage during a spring storm, and that it was already in very poor condition. Copper roofing had fallen off and much of the wood is rotten. It poses a severe safety hazard to people, and introduces environmental concerns to the building interior.

7.2.2 The professional consensus is that the steeple needs to be removed as soon as possible to eliminate the threats to people and property.

- 7.2.3 The Master Plan Committee recommends full removal of the steeple and belfry, with a small roof “cap” installed on top of the brick tower as a temporary solution until a cohesive architectural theme is determined through the Master Plan.
- 7.2.4 The Archdiocese prefers for steeples to remain, for identity reasons. The Master Plan committee has expressed its opinion that the building hasn’t been a church for 17 years and that the steeple causes confusion to guests.
- 7.2.5 The least expensive solution, at \$50,000 - 75,000, is to proceed as advised by the Master Plan committee (see Item 7.2.2).
- 7.2.6 To re-build the steeple in a similar manner would cost \$150,000 – 200,000, and is not recommended as a financially responsible option.
- 7.2.7 Insurance will cover approximately \$15,000 in costs, less our \$5,000 deductible.
- 7.2.8 Council approval is needed to pursue design and bidding, pending final approval by the Finance Committee.
- 7.2.9 Mary Ann O’Neal urged Fr Paul to deliver the news to the parish gently and with the facts about safety, given that a number of parishioners still have emotional ties to the steeple. The council agreed.
- 7.2.10 Vicki Murphy moved to *“proceed with the necessary steps to remove the existing steeple and replace it with an aesthetically pleasing ‘cap’ roof until the Master Plan determines a permanent solution.”*
- 7.2.11 Pat Tutsie seconded the motion.
- 7.2.12 The motion was approved by a unanimous vote: 10-0-0

7.3 Meeting Schedule

- 7.3.1 A proposed meeting schedule was presented as follows: 9/21, 10/19, 11/16, 1/18, 2/15, 3/15, 4/19, 5/17 and 6/21.
- 7.3.2 There is no meeting in December due to the holidays, and there is no meeting in July due to the festival.
- 7.3.3 Easter is April 1, 2018, so there are no conflicts with Holy Week.
- 7.3.4 The date for the 2018 Social Event will be determined later.
- 7.3.5 No concerns were expressed regarding the schedule.

7.4 Council Committees

- 7.4.1 Margaret distributed a Committee Preference Sheet.
- 7.4.2 Each council member is asked to note the committees they’d like to participate in, by ranking them 1-3 on the form and submitting it to Margaret.
- 7.4.3 Pat Tutsie asked if the Constitution Committee was still necessary, since the new Constitution was in place. It was discussed that the committee needs to exist in case there’s a question, or something needs to be changed or updated.
- 7.4.4 Fr Paul asked that the “Connected in the Spirit” committee be added, for the sake of continuity.

8 Announcements

8.1 Ministry Fair

- 8.1.1 The Ministry Fair will be held after all Masses the weekend of September 16 & 17.
- 8.1.2 It will be held in Emmaus Way this year, instead of in the gym, so that more people leaving Mass will be encouraged to stop by.
- 8.1.3 There will also be Coffee & Donuts that weekend, after 7:00, 8:30 and 10:30 Masses.

8.1.4 Council members able to help staff the Council Booth and/or Coffee & Donuts should let Margaret know.

8.2 Saints in the Streets

8.2.1 Will be held Saturday, October 7, from 8:00am – Noon at St. Anthony.

8.2.2 Volunteers are needed to help clean up public areas and perform yard work.

9 Closing Prayer

9.1 Margaret Bauer led the group in a closing prayer.

10 Adjournment

10.1 Meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm EDT

11 Next Meeting: September 21, 2017 @ 7:00 pm EDT

Prepared By: Tom Edwards

Approved On: 09/21/2017

Chairperson: X *Margaret E Bauer*

APPROVED