

Minutes of the Joint St. Anthony Abbot Finance & Pastoral Council Meeting
Thursday, March 5, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.
St. Anthony Abbot Parish Center

Members Present: Mary DeFoe, Mary Freitag, Greg Buckner, Bob Boehm, Rich Rydberg, and Ryan Schug.

Absent: None

- I. The meeting was called to order by Mary DeFoe at 6:30 p.m.
- II. The committees were led in prayer by Mary DeFoe.
- III. The committees reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting on July 17, 2025.

Motion by Rich Rydberg, second by Bob Boehm, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion called and approved unanimously.

- IV. The committees reviewed the current balance sheet as of March 5, 2026. The current balance reflects a balance of \$19,197.61 in the general checking, \$29,415.27 in the general savings, \$185,000 in cemetery investments, \$18,330.23 in cemetery maintenance, and \$313,727.12 in other investments. Total liabilities and equity is \$585,766.66.
- V. Old Business:
 - 1.) The committees discussed the status of current maintenance projects. Three of the windows in the parish center classrooms have been replaced by Marty Schramski. They went in well. The plan is to identify three or four windows a year for replacement until they have all been done.

Bob Boehm has been in contact with Dewayne Zweber about working on the encased and backlit stained-glass windows. Dewayne built the windows for us. He is planning to come to Cumberland to remove the windows from the wall and solder the connections on the LED panels to improve connectivity and loss of connections during weather related shifting of the panels. We will arrange some volunteers to help in removing and rehanging the windows when he comes. Hopefully this will resolve the issues we have been having.

Deacon Steve had Spectrum Painting come and look at the locations where we are seeing cracks in the drywall due to settling. Steve, from Spectrum Painting, is reaching out to Northwest Builders as well for assistance in sorting out the issue. Deacon Steve advised he has not heard back from them yet but will advise when a plan is put together.

Deacon Steve has also reached out to Meyer Electric about issues related the track lighting above the altar and about finding a better solution for the low voltage switching at the back of the church. The current switches have proven to be difficult to control, especially when dimming the lights in the church. The bathroom light switches will also be converted to motion detecting switches as we are having problems with bathroom lights not being turned off.

Other items discussed were the remodeling of the bathroom on the west end of the rectory and concrete cosmetic work to be done on the rectory. The need to remove the flower beds on each side of the rectory porch was also discussed.

- 2.) The committees reviewed the initial rendering provided by Conrad Schmitt Studios for painting in the new church building. Various comments and suggestions were received to be relayed to Abi Gruenke of Conrad Schmitt by Deacon Steve. Overall the committees were pleased with the general direction, sacredness, and theme for the initial design rendering.

Comments received were: 1.) Concern that the depicted ceiling painting might make the space seem small. 2.) The color and pattern behind the corpus and crucifix could possibly wash out the corpus and crucifix, reducing the overall visual impact. 3.) The immediate area behind the tabernacle appeared squashed or stunted in height and was not very appealing. It was suggested that imagery, such as grapes and wheat around the tabernacle, might be more meaningful to express the sacredness of the blessed sacrament and its representation of the food for eternal life. 4.) The framed stained-glass windows don't fit with the design theme. They are beautiful when they are working but are a serious distraction when they don't. 5.) The ceiling in the sanctuary, especially the symbolism highlighting the Holy Trinity were well received. 6.) The overall color scheme and the symbolism to St. Anthony the Abbot were well received. 7.) The soffit work, colors, and the wainscoting appearance on the sidewalls was well received. 8.) The committees agreed that they would like to see a rendering of the sanctuary without the stained-glass windows for comparison. The windows could be hung in the parish hall if necessary to facilitate a more consist design in the sanctuary. 9.) The committees are looking to see a rendering of the back wall and around the stained-glass windows on the side walls. 10.) Cost. We do not have an estimate of cost yet. That will come when there is a clear agreement on the final conceptual design. The discussion now is that the artwork would be "transformational" and would best be done all together, rather than trying to piecemeal the project over time. Given the overall transformational impact of the project another capital campaign could be done to raise money for the project, especially since the new building construction has been paid for.

VI. New Business:

- 1.) Liturgical Vestments - Deacon Steve advised the new server robes were delivered and are now available for use. They were recently used at the Family Mass last Wednesday night for the first time. They look very nice. Thank you to the CCW and the Knights of Columbus for paying for the new server albs.
- 2.) Deacon Steve advised Pat Schmitz provided a quote for mowing church properties for 2026. Pat has done an excellent job mowing for us and we have received many compliments for his work. The new rates are \$100.00 per cut for the North Field, \$575.00 per cut for the Cemetery, and \$210.00 per cut for the Church properties. This is an overall increase of \$85.00 per cut for all the grounds. The number of cuts required depend on weather and the overall length of the mowing season.

Motion made by Rich Rydberg, second by Ryan Schug, to approve the new mowing rates.

Motion called and approved unanimously.

3.) Other new business:

- A.) Deacon Steve advised the Easter Triduum will be held at St. Anthony the Abbot this year.
- B.) We will be taking a charter bus to the Chrism Mass on March 24th again this year. The bus will be coming from Spooner and will stop in Chetek to pick up a group from their cluster at 8:30am and will then arrive in Cumberland at 9am to pick up our group. It will return to St. Anthony's around 5pm. The cost for the bus is \$1,297.99. It is always a fun trip and people really enjoy getting to see the Chrism Mass, see the oils to be used for the year being blessed, and receiving them. They are then presented at the Holy Thursday Mass.
- C.) The scheduling of a clean-up day for the church property was discussed. A date has not currently been scheduled.

VII. Motion to adjourn was made by Rich Rydberg, second by Mary Freitag and voted unanimously to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Dcn. Steve Linton
Parish Life Coordinator