

Parish Council Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2023

In attendance: Council: Jay Farmer, Cody Mueller, Claudia McCalley, Nancy Schmelzer, Bill Erickson, Diane Erickson, Carla Clark, Bob Hauber. Others: Fran Zichal, Hazel Martin, Joan Wangen, Todd Lenth, Mike Rentschler, Paul Dolan, Ann Gibney. Meeting opened with Prayer offered by Claudia McCalley. Introductions were made.

Correspondence: Several thank you notes were received from families of parishioners. Donation to the parish was included in one of the notes. Information from Heifer International was received. All correspondence was circulated.

Minutes from the December 6, 2022 Parish Council meeting were reviewed. Correction is needed in one item, a change from donation of funds from Shepherd of the Hills to Clayton County Food Shelf. **Motion to approve minutes** from Nancy, seconded by Diane. Minutes approved as corrected and will be sent to office staff for posting.

Committee Reports:

Finance: (Financials included in meeting packet). Bob Hauber reported the finances are in good condition at this time. He reported that the committee continues to review estimates for the Air Conditioning repairs. A memorial has been received and may be used as a starting point for replacement costs. Finance committee will be meeting next week to continue discussion on the AC and bathroom projects.

Cemetery Commission: Todd Lenth presented an update regarding the expansion. Much work has been completed and planning continues. The next steps will be plotting and landscaping. Fundraisers last year were helpful, and additional fundraisers will be discussed at the next meeting. The council thanked the commission for their work on this project.

Adult Faith Formation/Safety/Disability Inclusion:(Report included in meeting packet.) Fran Zichal presented a report. *Adult Faith Formation:* The committee is working on having a retreat, and adding formation programs. *Safety:* Final training for hospitality ministers will be this weekend and final safety report will be completed and filed. *Disability Inclusion:* Christmas party was held in December. Events at St. Mary's are going well. This group is just getting started and will be getting direction from the Archdiocese. The council asked questions about the safety plan for sheltering in the hall and Fran will get confirmation from the Fire Dept as to the best location for safety. The council will continue to support adult faith formation efforts and discuss ideas for increased participation.

Parish Life: Ann Gibney presented report. The Adults Night Out event is canceled. It is possible that the Couples Night Out will also be canceled. Parish Life is currently gathering items for distribution to Care Center and Scenic Acres residents for St. Valentine's Day. She opened discussion regarding the mission work that Jamie Wingert

is doing in Uganda. She was seeking direction from the council as to whether the parish would want to do something to support her work. Council shared ideas about local needs and groups which might also benefit from parish support. Diane reported that her circle will be holding a card party on Feb. 5th which will be open to the community. Notice will be in the bulletin.

Faith Formation: Hazel Martin presented report. She reviewed the work being done in several classes, upcoming retreats and activities for students preparing for sacraments. She is implementing new class time for 6th grade students and reported that there are approximately 75 students attending classes on a weekly basis. She is doing a review of Christmas activities and what might be tried next year. She reported that there will be a preliminary meeting for students interested in attending NCYC this weekend.

Liturgy Committee: Mike Rentschler presented a report. The committee has removed Christmas decorations from the church, moving to Ordinary Time. She reviewed ideas which have been shared about the Christmas Eve Mass and changes which might be made. She welcomed any questions/comments about liturgy.

Stewardship/Social Concerns: Diane Erickson presented a report. The committee will be having a donation in Feb for the "Souper Bowl" with funds going to Clayton County Food Shelf. No requests were made in December for the Pay It Forward funds. The committee will speak at an upcoming Mass to provide information about the program. The committee will be doing a Time and Talent survey and will manage the follow up work to ensure those signing up for interest areas will be included in those committees.

Building and Grounds: Bill Erickson presented a report. The replacement water heater has been installed in the sacristy. Solar motion lights may be used to light the fire escape on the parish center and the kitchen door of the parish hall. He discussed the need to consider refinishing on the church doors. Having an identified Priest Parking spot in the lots is being considered. Bill reported that a spring/summer work day will be needed to do lawn work and other yard maintenance. He reported that there are several Ash Trees on the campus which will possibly need to be removed. Regarding the Air conditioning repair, Northeast Iowa Mechanical have indicated that they possibly could do the work. They will be providing an estimate which will be forwarded to the Finance committee. Discussion of the bathroom project is tabled until Father John can participate.

New Business:

Information from Deacon Paul: Father John was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. "Holy Moments" books will need to be delivered to those who have not picked them up. The books were distributed to council members for delivery. He reported that *Venmo*, a digital payment system, is not available to nonprofit organizations. He will do further investigation of systems with the Archdiocese. *Announcement of the Town Hall*

meeting should be made by the council the week before the meeting. First part of the Annual report from the Pastorate was distributed to council members.

Parish Town Hall Meeting: St. Josephs will be held on Saturday Feb 25th, immediately after Mass. It will be held in the hall and the council decided that a light meal should be held in conjunction with the discussion. Request was made of Parish Life to have a circle coordinate and serve the meal. Further planning of the event will be done at the next Parish Council Meeting. Carla volunteered to make the announcement at the Feb. 11th Mass.

Parish Council in Action: At the last meeting, Cody challenged council members to consider doing an activity of leadership. Council members discussed several ideas, and further discussion to be considered.

Friend of the Chamber: Ann Gibney discussed St. Joseph Church becoming a member of the Elkader Chamber of Commerce. It would allow events at the church to be included in the Chambers promotions. **Moved** by Diane that Parish Council accept an anonymous donation of a Friend of the Chamber membership. Seconded by Cody.

Voted and approved.

Next Meeting: Parish Council meeting will be Feb. 9th at 6:00pm at the Parish Center. Pastorate Wide Council meeting will be Feb. 28th at 6:30pm at St. Marks.

Respectfully submitted
Claudia McCalley