

Sacred Heart Pastoral Council
August 21, 2025
Approved Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Frank Kisley at 7:20 pm.

Attendance: Father Dery, Frank Kisley, Patty Kisley, Judy Mayer, Sara Ramker, Samantha Taets, Judy Mayer, and Guests Annette Uker and Tammy Lamb **Absent:** Ruth DeGroff

Minutes of May 15, 2025 and June 12, 2025 Pastoral Council Meeting: Patty made a motion, Judy seconded the motion and the Minutes of the May 15th, 2025 and June 12, 2025 Pastoral Council Meetings were approved.

Old Business:

Once a list of usher duties is approved, there will be a meeting scheduled after 5:15 and/or 10:30 mass for usher training. Annette has located a previously used list of duties and will be sending that to Frank so he can revise it.

Frank is going to look at the swinging doors going into the sanctuary to see if there is any way to adjust them, so they can shut softer. Having the doors closed can help a great deal with keeping the outside noise level down during mass.

New Business:

Frank brought up the lack of communication between the previous priest and the Pastoral Council. Deb Popp was hired without any of the members' knowledge until after the fact. The council also was unaware of her duties or if there were any other candidates considered for the job. The council was informed that Deb makes \$17/hr and averages 20 hours per week. Deb helps Tammy with faith formation duties as well as in the AV room to prepare the music and readings for the upcoming masses. She has also started making the ministry schedule.

Since Deb has taken over the ministry schedule, Jill is now doing Father Ray's former job of recording the sacraments. Frank suggested getting job descriptions of those on staff, so we can be transparent with the parish. Father Dery is going to work with the staff to create formal write-ups of their duties.

Catechesis of Good Shepherd (CGS) will be starting later this year or the beginning of next year for ages 3-6. Father Dery thought January would be a good time to start so there would be enough time to work out the logistics. Tammy voiced her reservations with CGS and Samantha gave a brief summary of CGS, sharing her belief that it fosters a deep, loving relationship with God and understanding of the mass through hands-on activities. Samantha would like to see CGS start in November, as it follows the liturgical year and would want to start before advent begins.

Tammy reported that there are around 60 students in the faith formation program at Sacred Heart. Decreasing enrollment is a serious concern with all council members. The definition of insanity was brought up, trying the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. Samantha suggested CGS as a different approach with hopefully different results.

Frank asked if the pastoral council has a mission statement, asking what exactly is our role. Annette has literature that describes duties of the council. Members of the council unanimously agreed that meeting quarterly is not often enough to address concerns and check on progress being made. Members agreed to meet on a monthly basis going forward.

Discussion was had about starting to meet quarterly as a cluster since this has not been done in years. Father Dery believes this would be vital for both churches to come together as one family and grow together.

Frank is going to look into getting a quote for a camera that points towards the baptismal font, so that those watching the livestream can see the baptism as well.

Frank brought up the idea of changing the time of faith formation to either a different day and/or time. Club sports are often having practices on Wednesday evenings. Other council members mentioned that there are tournaments and practices every day of the week, so any day, faith formation will be in competition with sports.

Father Dery's welcome party is set for September 7th at 5pm. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served.

Putting cameras at the entrances of the church was discussed to help with monitoring unwanted visitors. Locking the church doors for safety reasons was also brought up, as well as the potential for a negative spiritual impact. Motion activated buzzers would be a cheap place to start with alerting staff that visitors were present.

Fr Dery Report:

Archbishop Zinkula will be coming to Stacyville for the sacrament of confirmation TBD in April.

The installation ceremony for Father Dery will be held next Saturday, August 30th at the 5:15pm mass.

Next meeting date: September 18, 2025.

Closing Prayer led by Father Dery

Samantha Taets motioned to adjourn at 9:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Ramker