**Parish Council Minutes Date: 12/17/2024**

Anne Marie Gavel, Chair

Beth Coleman

Maureen Mahowald

Casey Martin

Angeles Martinez

Jean Mielke

Angela Piram

Roma Lee Rasmussen

John Rimstad

“The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community.”

― **Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel: Evangelii Gaudium**

Parish Council

**In Attendance:** Anne Marie Gavel, Chair, Maureen Mahowald, Roma Lee Rasmussen, John Rimstad, Angela Piram, Jeanne Mielke, Casey Martin, Beth Coleman, Fr. Jim Liekhus, Fr. David Shaw, Beth Schorle.

**Absent:** Angeles Martinez

The Council started the meeting sharing a Christmas dinner.

**Opening Prayer:** Parish Prayer.

The parish council approved the November 2024 minutes and reviewed the 2025 Parish Council meeting schedule.

**Parish Council discussion**

**Parish Council debriefed on the December 4, 2024, Commission meeting.**

* **What worked**.
  + Fr. Liekhus started the meeting with a reflection of Hope. Pope Francis has designated “pilgrims of Hope” as the theme for the 2025 Jubilee, emphasizing the journey of faith in challenging times. “Hope does not disappoint” (Rom 5:5) The reflection helped put the group in the mindset of hope that each step we take will help us grow and strengthen the commissions to support the tri-parish ministries to achieve our mission.
  + Commissions sharing their activities showed progress and it was good for other commissions to see the positive work underway.
  + We had good attendance
* **Ideas on how to improve the meetings**
  + In addition to having time for commissions to share with the larger group the activities underway, have more dedicated discussion time for each commission to meet to plan versus having to meet outside the commission meetings. It was suggested that we could rotate large group sharing and dedicated commission time.
  + Overtime the Education portion of the commission meetings will not be required, which could allow for more time for dedicated commission discussion time.
  + Clarity for the “ask” for the next commission meeting.

**Parish Council reviewed recommendations from Tri-Parish Commissions**

* **Fellowship Commission Definition.** The parish council appreciated the recommendation from the Fellowship commission lead and had minor suggestions to make to the recommendations. Angie Piram, the parish council liaison, will review with the commission lead before January Council meeting.
* Outreach Commission. The council reviewed additional information about the request to form a new ministry, racial equity. This is the first new ministry the council has been requested to consider so we have asked the group to continue the discovery of the objective of this ministry and outline one priority they would like to focus on for 2025. Maureen Mahowald, the parish council liaison, will follow up with the group.

The Parish Council previewed the Parish Council Focus for 2025 – “What overarching initiatives will have the biggest impact to encourage and engage new volunteers?” The council will begin this discussion in January 2025.

**Closing prayer:** Led by Fr. Liekhus

**Adjourned:** 8:30pm

*Respectfully submitted, Anne Marie Gavel*