

Blessed Sacrament Pastoral Council

Agenda

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Present: Jack Eherenman, Maggie England, Ellen Heuer, Father Tony Kruse, Dan McGrane, Vince Schons, Melanie Ernst, Steve Ernst, Jill Faucher, Sheila Miller, and Gary Vent

Excused Absence: Greg Stammeyer

Dan McGrane called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

Opening Prayer led by Dan McGrane.

**Council Decision Items:**

- Approval of Minutes: June 27, 2023, meeting. Motion to approve by Vince Schons, second by Dan McGrane, approved by unanimous vote.

**Council Discussion Items:**

- Welcome: Council welcomed new Council members, Sheila Miller and Steve Ernst
- Monthly prayer leaders – Council members self-assigned to lead prayer at monthly council meetings:
  - October – Sheila Miller
  - November – Vince Schons
  - December – Jill Faucher
  - January – Jack Eherenman
  - February – Gary Vent
  - March – Ellen Heuer
  - April – Steve Ernst
  - May – Jill Faucher
  - June – Dan McGrane
- Recommendation of changes to the Council Bylaws – to reflect the Council's current practices. Father Tony will notify the Archdiocese of the proposed changes, which include:
  - Article I Section A – removing the requirement for a representative of the Waterloo Formation Commission and a representative of the stewardship committee to be ex officio voting members of the pastoral council.
  - Article VIII Section A – Updating the section listing the Standing Committees to change the name of "Social Justice" to "Social Concerns" and adding the "Waterloo Consolidated Faith Formation Commission" to the Standing Committee list.
  - Article VIII Section C – removing the requirement for Pastoral Council Membership to include a representative from the Waterloo Faith Formation Commission and a member of the stewardship committee to be ex officio voting members of the pastoral council.
- Subcommittee assignments - The Council determined assignments to the three subcommittees that are currently without Pastoral Council oversight.
  - Liturgy – Vince Schons
  - Stewardship – Sheila Miller
  - Social Concerns – Steve Ernst
  - Dan McGrane will rotate each month to a different committee
- Update on end of fiscal year financials - Ellen Heuer
  - Ended fiscal year 2022-2023 about \$40,000 in the red, partly due to paying off a decade old loan, which was approximately \$60,000.
  - Fundraising for the boiler has gone well, and the parish is starting to incur expenses now that work has started, and not all money has been received due to donations still trickling in and pledges will be paid over a 3-year period.
  - Goal is to end the calendar year in the black, at zero. To reach this goal, the parish is watching spending and looking for other opportunities to increase cash flow (encouraging

participation in the garage sale). In addition, the Parish Life Committee intends to have donation boxes out at the Bingo night in October, in which donations will go toward the General Fund.

- Living Legacy Endowment – we do not touch the principal and we get about \$40,000/year in interest from this endowment. Maggie England suggested having Greg Greco to offer a video presentation sent to parishioners on how endowments work.
- The Finance Committee has discussed doing more reporting/education in the bulletin to provide transparency about how the various donation envelopes are used and have a goal for quarterly article.

**Pastor's Reflections:** Father Tony talked about a proposal to the Archdiocese to make Blessed Sacrament Church an Archdiocese Pilgrimage site for Eucharistic revival. We are currently one full year into the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Eucharistic Revival and the theme for this fiscal year is "Parish Revival." We are the only parish in the Archdiocese named for the Blessed Sacrament. Bishop Pates, Apostolic Administrator, is open to making Blessed Sacrament Church a pilgrimage site, but he wanted a plan, which Father Tony and the office staff are currently working on submitting. The plan includes proposing the pilgrimage would start at the beginning of Advent in 2023 to coincide with the start of the new liturgical year; and go through Corpus Christi 2024, our Parish Feast Day. The parish would like to hold Adoration on MTWF from 8:30am-9pm; and on Saturdays from 8:30am until 4:30pm when Mass begins. Adoration would require guardians, which could include Catholic Daughters, Knights of Columbus, volunteers from our parish or other parishes in the Archdiocese. We would require one Eucharistic Minister from Blessed Sacrament to be responsible for reposing and locking the doors each night after adoration has completed. As the Last Supper was on a Thursday, the church would observe each Thursday during the Pilgrimage as a day of dedication. We plan to have devotions throughout the day, confessions in the afternoon and various activities led by the Prayer Team in the evenings. We will need hourly guardians to keep the monstrance unveiled. Due to this day of weekly dedication, the parish will not hold funerals on Thursdays during the six-month Pilgrimage period. Throughout the duration of the Pilgrimage, the church will be open for other parishes to hold Mass and for people to come and pray. Area priests will be invited to come to Blessed Sacrament to hear confessions, especially on Thursdays. The planning group is considering having a sign-in book, a locked donation box, as well as a book to write down prayer intentions. Father Tony will be submitting the final plan to the Archdiocese for consideration.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- CVCS – Greg Stammeyer – No report
- Finance Council - Ellen Heuer provided an update on end of fiscal year financials (see above).
- Liturgy - No report
- Parish Life – Jill Faucher provided an overview of upcoming fall/winter scheduled events, including Bingo Night in October, Thanksgiving Meal in November and Open Gyms for all ages scheduled on various Friday nights November through February.
- Social Concerns – No report
- Stewardship – No report
- WCFFC - Jack Eherenman -No report
- Youth Representatives - Melanie Ernst: No report

**Closing Prayer:** Dan McGrane

**Adjournment:** Dan McGrane motioned to adjourn at 8:11pm.

**NEXT MEETING:** Date/Time: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 @ 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jill Faucher  
Secretary