

**Pax Christi Catholic Community
Community Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 15th, 2012
Minutes**

Attendees: Eric Anderson, Sue Fier, Greg Halvorson, Tom Keane, Vicki Klima, Bruce Koehn, Mike Lindseth, Mary Frances Messer, Carrie Chevalier Mosher, Fr. Bill Murtaugh, Jim O’Laughlin, Steven Olinger, Jim Sankovitz, Shari Steffen, Joan Waterstreet and Mark Weber

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on April 17th, 2012 were approved.

Justice Ministry Feature

Mark Weber, Justice Council Chairperson, presented an overview of the responsibilities of the Justice Council. The Justice Ministry Council exists to serve and speak for the marginalized, to serve the parish as its primary resource and catalyst for the work of social justice, to educate the community on social issues and Catholic social teaching, to provide opportunities for social action, and to foster awareness that social ministry is integral, not optional, in the life of the parish. It provides leadership and vision to the Justice Grant Board and other justice related ministries.

The Justice Council focused on the following two strategic-plan tactics during the past year:

1) Develop a series of programs that teach Pax Christi about Catholic Social Teaching

- Offered a series of six Pax Christi CAFÉ programs – from Sept 28 to Nov 18 – in which parishioners were invited to hear presentations from six of the organizations and schools that received 2011-12 justice grants from Pax Christi
- To increase awareness, arranged to have food bags brought to the worship altar during masses on the first weekend of each month
- Helped sponsor the St. Stephen’s Human Services photo/audio exhibit, “Homelessness is My Address, Not My Name” from January 7 to February 12 as a means to alter parishioners’ perceptions of homelessness
- Hosted a legislative briefing provided by the Archdiocese’s Office of Social Justice on February 6
- Hosted and led a series of five Lenten programs on “Think and Act Anew,” the book authored by Fr. Larry Snyder of Catholic Charities USA. Council members also attended a presentation by Fr. Snyder on November 17 at St. Olaf in downtown Minneapolis to prepare for the Pax Christi series
- Supported the various drives conducted by the Twelve Baskets Ministry, a valuable first step in justice-related engagement opportunities at Pax Christi
- Initiated an overhaul of the “Social Justice” area of paxchristi.com to include more about Catholic social teachings as well as volunteer opportunities

2) Collaborate with southwest faith community to educate and address community needs

- On December 7 and December 14 held presentations on the topic of Eden Prairie poverty, Facilitated by City of Eden Prairie staff and intended to make parishioners more aware of the scope of poverty in Eden Prairie and elsewhere in the southwest metro area
- Participated in workshops held by the City of Eden Prairie to acquaint local faith communities and leaders about the poverty-related issues and services in Eden Prairie

Associate Pastor

An associate pastor has not yet been assigned to Pax Christi.

Member Engagement Survey

Steve Olinger, Lay Leadership Council Chairperson, presented additional information regarding the proposed Gallup member engagement survey. The first step in the process will be to form a committee of parish members to lead the effort. It was suggested that Community, Council alumni would make good candidates for this committee. The objective and scope of the survey must be effectively communicated to the entire parish. When determining the timing of the engagement survey, the timing of a proposed faith formation survey must be taken into consideration.

Faith Formation Initiatives

Jim O’Laughlin, Faith Formation Council Chairperson, presented a summary of initiatives intended to better identify, qualify and quantify parishioner engagement in Faith Formation.

1. Catechist calling campaign
2. Establish baseline parish census data for the number of youth registered at Pax Christi and the number of youth participating in FF programming - determine if trends are occurring
3. Perform a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis
4. Focus group discussions – summary comments were presented
5. Parish-wide survey – postponed due to time constraints
6. Catechist recruitment and retention efforts

Strategic Plan Initiatives

Ministry Councils were asked to share their council initiatives for the upcoming fiscal year.

Facilities – Continue to utilize the Hard Hat volunteers to minimize costs of capital improvement projects. Build an inventory of volunteers to contact as needs arise. Send thank-you notes to volunteers following the completion of service projects.

Faith Formation – Conduct a parish-wide survey. Catechist recruitment and retention efforts.

Finance – Annual reporting of contributions of time and talent as well as treasure.

Justice – Continue to provide programs that teach Pax Christi about Catholic Social Teaching. Collaborate with the southwest faith community to educate and address community needs.

Lay Leadership – Refine the discernment process. Provide continued leadership development opportunities. Promote Lay Leadership grants.

Pastoral Care – Provide programming specifically for the 55+ parish members.

Stewardship – Continued focus on engagement. Specifically on members who attend mass but do not participate in the life of Pax. Continue to nurture new member engagement.

Worship – Development of a “Lord Teach Us to Be Just” educational series. Continued calling campaign with personal invitations to parish events.

Ministry Council Chairpersons

Ministry councils were asked to discern their chairpersons for the 2012-13 fiscal year. Newly discerned chairpersons are as follows:

Facilities – Tony Anderson

Faith Formation – Judy Ryan

Finance – Julie Borchart

Justice – Julie Warrick

Lay Leadership – Diana Gast

Pastoral Care – Doug Mertz

Stewardship – Carrie Chevalier Mosher

Worship – Eric Anderson

Ministry council chairpersons, along with the three returning at-large members (Tom Keane, Mike Lindseth, and Mary Frances Messer), the two trustees (Bruce Koehn and Sherri Steffen), Parish Director Vicki Klima and Fr. Bill Murtaugh will comprise the 2012-13 Community Council.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sue Fier, Secretary