



# Meeting Minutes

Pax Christi Monthly Council Meeting

COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	9-15-20	
<b>Minutes Prepared By:</b>	Andrea Ward	
<b>Absent:</b>	None	
<b>Attendees:</b>	Dale Nelson – Chair	Cecelia Cervantes
	Fr. Mike Byron	Nicholle Check – left at 6:28pm
	Jane Schmitz	Mark Chronister
	Bruce Koehn Carolyn Zucker	Andy Leet Pat Nault
	Patricia Hughes Baumer Mary Frances Messer – joined 5:45pm	Jacob Plourde Dave Putrich Mike Schneider Cindy Schuh

**Opening Prayer:** Dale Nelson and Cecilia Cervantes

**Call to Order:** At 5:32pm by Dale Nelson

**Approve Last Month Minutes:** Moved to accept by Cecilia Cervantes, seconded by Mark Chronister

**Approved Revisions:**

## Topic Description

**1. Pax 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** Discussion led by Dale Nelson and Jane Schmitz.

Keeping in mind that this is a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we want to make sure that the celebration is of an appropriate scope.

On the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, food trucks were brought in, but the main celebration was centered around granting to different organizations that were working within the larger community with outreach activities that went with them, i.e. working on a home with Habitat for Humanity and building dressers at Bridging.

The timeline for when we hold the celebration is a part of the discussion, and because of concerns about what will be feasible due to COVID-19, it may be helpful to have a “Plan A” if people can get together in person and a “Plan B” if celebrations need to be held virtually.

The Hospitality and Community Outreach Council will be taking the lead on the initial planning of this celebration in conjunction with a subcommittee that will be made up of individuals suggested by each Council. Councils can elect members of their Council or others from the community who may be interested in helping with this process, allowing for broader outreach. The Parish does have records of vendors that have been contracted with in the past, as all vendors have to be approved by Catholic Mutual. That information may be made available to the committee on a later date.

Several different ideas were floated including possible speakers and more grants. A suggested focus is on gratitude.

There was a lot of interest in making a video about the founding of the Parish and how it has progressed through the years, inviting founding members and past Pastors to share their stories. Fr. Tim Power is in a video that already exists, sharing some of his stories about the founding of the Parish, and should be included in the new video. There are a lot of historical pictures and items from that time that can also be incorporated. This video could also be used beyond the Anniversary, possibly used to create a timeline of Pax Christi like the one that Catholic Charities has created.

This visioning of this video will be done by the Hospitality and Community Outreach Council, and the execution will be supported by the Communications Council.

This will be on the agenda for next month’s meeting.

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Every council submit a name for the ad hoc planning committee to Mike Schneider.

## 2. **Goal Setting for Councils:** Discussion led by Dale Nelson and Jane Schmitz.

Questions to guide the ministry council conversations:

- What engaged you most when reading the Purpose/Mission/Belonging/Believing/Values?
- What key Challenge Area(s) does your Council most need to focus on this year?
- Among its many activities, what one key goal could the Council set, and how would you measure success?
- How does your goal acknowledge and/or provide an activity in which parishioners can foster their sense of being called by God in discipleship and vocation?

Councils should use this month and next to plan their goals, using the questions above as guides. Official goals will be presented during the November Community Council meeting and should be submitted to Dale Nelson before that meeting.

This process will be especially important this year as there is concern about people returning to church when it is safe to do so. While things are still happening at Pax Christi, it looks different than people are used to and so may not be as visible. How do we as Pax Christi help bring people back into the Church? Also, how has this experience given us a chance to relook at why people were stopping attending even before the shutdown? Councils should keep these questions in mind. The At-Large council members may consider taking that on as a part of their goal setting.

Fr. Mike took the opportunity to ask Jacob for his view on the question of engagement with the church as a young adult, asking the following questions: Why are you engaged and involved at Pax Christi? Why do you think young people would come back? Why do you think young people wouldn’t come back? What are we as Pax Christi doing right? What are we doing wrong? Can responses to these questions be put in writing or made into a video to be shared with Fr. Mike and leadership? Jacob responded that he would be happy to share his thoughts, specifically calling out Pax Christi’s

welcoming spirit as a reason he stayed and stepped into a leadership position. He also thought there were more young people that would be willing to share.

There are currently no interfaith groups meeting in Eden Prairie right now. As we explore the question of how to re-engage the community, we may want to look for an interfaith group or a group of other local Catholic churches that are also pursuing that question.

Mass attendance at both Sunday Masses has been increasing, though those numbers are closely tied to infection rates; if they go up, attendance decreases, and vice versa.

**3. Other Items Brought Up:** Dale Nelson opened the floor to anyone who had something to bring up.

Patricia brought up the need for prayer leading up to the election, preferably offered in-person along with streaming. The Pandemic Prayer team is putting something together that may fill this need.

The United States bishops' letter about faithful citizenship and Catholic views was also brought up with the question if this will be shared and if there is any teaching happening. Joan and the Justice Council are planning an event together with Fr. Mike.

**Adjournment:** Moved to adjourn by Andy Leet, seconded by all at 6:32pm.

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Ward.