

	Meeting Minutes Pax Christi Monthly Council Meeting	COMMUNITY COUNCIL
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Council:	Community Council – Additional Meeting
Meeting Date:	6-16-2020
Minutes Prepared By:	Andrea Ward

Attendees:	Fred Baumer – Chair	Mike Kennedy
	Fr. Mike Byron	Andy Leet
	Jane Schmitz	Phyllis Olson
	Bruce Koehn Carolyn Zucker	Dave Putrich Ricardo Ortiz-Nava
	Dale Nelson Mary Frances Messer Nicholle Check	Mike Schneider Cindy Schuh Julie Tyler

1. 2020-2021 Budget Review and Approval: Jane Schmitz presented the budget and lead the discussion. After clarifying questions were answered, it was unanimously approved by the Community Council.

2. Discussion and Direction on the Continuing Process of Reopening: Discussion led by Fr. Mike.

With the reported levels of sickness decreasing and the number of COVID-19 related deaths going down in Minnesota, it seems that indicators are moving in favor of another step in reopening. Pax Christi staff have been hearing from people both in favor of this type of move and against.

We are presently doing Tuesday and Friday daily Mass, Live Stream Mass on Saturday at 5:00pm, and the Parking Lot Mass on Sundays at 12:00pm.

Fr. Mike suggested expanding daily Mass to Tuesday through Friday, with Wednesday being offered at 8:30am and Thursday still being a Word Service led by lay preachers if they are interested in returning, and introducing an indoor Sunday 9:00am Mass, limited to 100 people. The idea of expanding daily Mass to a limit of 20 people was also brought up. As a note, Monday morning Mass has not been brought back yet because Fr. Steve McMichael usually presided over that Mass and he is not yet available to come back. These Masses would all follow the safety guidelines outlined during last month’s meeting. Timing for this is suggested to start with the expanded daily Masses next week, and the Sunday following to be the first indoor Mass.

The question about the experiences of other churches that have opened was raised. Both Fr. Mike and Jane Schmitz reported hearing from other churches that they have been seeing far less response returning than were expected. People not wearing masks when they should has been reported as well.

Here at Pax Christi, daily Mass has not usually been full and we have rarely had to turn people away. Attendees have largely been 65 and over. We have not had trouble with people wearing masks. One of the issues that we have seen when we've had people on campus for weddings and funerals is that people do not always pay attention to signage about areas that are closed because they have been sanitized and just go where they please. This means that we will have to plan to sanitize the whole building after Masses, which is no small undertaking. The idea of cordoning off areas of the church, possibly with museum style curtains, was brought up, but it was decided that that would likely not be effective as people have been ignoring the signage and markings already posted. We will want to make sure that there are ushers available during Sunday Masses to help keep an eye on these closed off areas and direct people to where they are supposed to be.

The question was raised if people would be able to sign up on the spot for Mass if there are spots available. While this is not ideal, we would be able to facilitate that.

There was also a question about why we were opening to 100 attendees. This number is fairly arbitrary, though it was determined that that is the number of chairs that can fit in the middle section of the sanctuary, not using any pews. It is meant to just be a starting point for us to use to gauge both the demand of attendees and how this works logistically when we have people in the space. The suggestion of lowering it to 60 was made. Eventually it was decided that 100 will be safe.

Communication of expectations will be going out in next week's eNEWS if we reinstate Sunday Mass. This will include emphasizing personal responsibility for staying home if you don't feel well or have any symptoms and the wearing of face masks. The importance of face masks was also emphasized for the Parking Lot Mass attendees for when they receive communion in this week's eNEWS.

Pax Christi will continue to follow the guidance of the CDC and the Minnesota Department of Health leaders on how to best provide a safe worship experience to all parishioners.

Consensus reached on both the expansion of daily Mass and the reintroduction of indoor Mass on Sunday at 9:00am.

3. Parish Public Discussion about Systemic Racism: Discussion led by Ricardo Ortiz-Nava.

The Justice Council seeks to address current social structures that work against the ideas of social justice. The Council previously identified three areas of action for the parish: immigration, housing, and climate justice.

One of the main ways that they do this is through education which then leads to action. They have had the Justice Speaker series in the past that has addressed these topics, along with *JustFaith* classes where these and other topics are discussed. They also launched the Social Action Teams in October that deal with these topics.

One of the newer groups added at the start of this year addressed racism. This group was already discussing how they wanted to create a new action team, following guidelines already given to other justice groups. They helped organize the George Floyd memorial prayer service at Pax Christi, and other people have expressed interest in joining this team.

In cooperation with this action team, the Justice Council is looking to increase the amount of training and education around this topic in the coming program year.

The request was made that Fr. Mike talk about this team at Masses to let people know that it exists and how to connect with it. Fr. Mike approved this request, asking that someone provide 30-second talking points for him.

As a note: There is a larger ecumenical response of pastors in Eden Prairie that are looking to make a wider community response. More details will be made available on this on a later date.

4. Leadership Calendar:

Due to time constraints, we were not able to hear Dave Putrich's update on the full leadership calendar. Fred Baumer reiterated the request to get names of new Council Chairs turned in, as we are asking all current and new Council Chairs to attend next month's Community Council meeting.

Next Meeting – July 21, 2020

This meeting was transcribed per meeting recording.

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Ward.