

Council:	Community Council
Meeting Date:	11-17-2020
Minutes Prepared By:	Andrea Ward

Attendees:	Dale Nelson – Chair	Cecelia Cervantes
	Fr. Mike Byron – joined at 6:05pm	Nicholle Check – left at 6:30pm
	Jane Schmitz	Mark Chronister
	Bruce Koehn Carolyn Zucker	Andy Leet Pat Nault
	Patricia Hughes Baumer Mary Frances Messer	Jacob Plourde Dave Putrich Mike Schneider – left at 6:30pm Cindy Schuh – left at 6:30pm Cecilia Morris – from the Worship Council

Absent:		

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 5:32pm by Dale Nelson.

Opening Prayer: *In Celebration of our Universal Call to Holiness* – led by Dale Nelson

Approve Last Month Minutes: Minutes of the October 20, 2020 meeting were approved. Cecelia Cervantes moved. Mark and Dave seconded the motion.

1. Parish Director Candidate Search Update: Discussion led by Carolyn Zucker.

The position was posted through end of October on the Archdiocesan Career Website with the parish receiving eight resumes. The first round of interviews happened last week. The process moved ahead with the top two candidates meeting with Fr. Mike this week; both candidates are extremely qualified. Fr. Mike will be making the final decision. The transition plan will need to be finalized.

2. Communities of Calling: Discussion led by Jane Schmitz.

Pax Christi joined the Communities of Calling Initiative in August of 2018. This project, consisting of churches across the United States and Canada of many different Christian denominations work on projects within the congregations that promote the deepening of vocation and calling both within their communities and as a larger Body of Christ.

The Pax Christi team leading this process for us was Fr. Mike, Jane Schmitz, and parishioner Mackenzie Kloempken. At the end of August of this year, Mackenzie stepped down from this position. Jane will continue with this project as the parishioner representative of the team, with Maura Schnorbach stepping in at the staff position.

At the end of October, Jane and Mike attended a virtual retreat with the Communities of Calling congregations, and reported on the parts of the plan that have moved forward and funded: the Liturgical Ministers Retreat in September, and the *JustFaith* Racial Justice groups that have been meeting.

3. Risk Management Analysis and Expand the range of Equity Investment: Discussion led by Mark Chronister.

Giving is significantly down, though the parish has done a good job in reducing the budget to essential expenses, and the Finance Council does not foresee needing to make any other large changes to that at this time.

The Council does propose preparing a “Plan B” for unforeseen things and unknown budget costs in these uncertain times. This would see making 10% of the available cash available for both “known and unknown costs.” This percentage would be reviewed quarterly and adjusted as appropriate.

Mary Frances moved to approve, seconded by Dave Putrich and Cindy Schuh – the vote brought unanimous approval, none opposed.

There has been a suggestion from within the Finance Council to change the amount of money allowed in equities from 0 – 30% to 0 – 40%. There is more risk in equity market, and up until 4 or 5 years ago, Pax Christi held no equities, instead buying bonds. This change is more about giving the money managers latitude as the markets appear to be focused on recovery, and want the option to benefit as the markets continue to go up.

Mark Chronister moved to approve, seconded by Cecelia Cervantes – the vote brought unanimous approval, none apposed.

4. Christmas Mass Update (Christmas Eve at 4:00pm and Christmas Day at 10:00am): Discussion led by Dale Nelson and Jane Schmitz.

After the initial plan for Christmas has been changed after input from leaders, Masses will be offered as listed above, with the threshold being reduced from 100 people to 75. Advent Reconciliation service attendance will also be capped at the 75. All Masses listed will also be Live-Streamed.

The Community Council wants the focus to shift to getting the streamed Mass out to more people and encourage electronic giving, including different ways to donate including RMDs and the option for “Text-to-Give” with the information shared before Mass including with those participating via Live Stream. We may also want to invite people to donate in advance, and send out direct thank you notes.

5. Technology Ministry: Discussion led by Cecelia Morris.

Cecelia Morris, co-chair of the Worship Council with Jacob Plourde, presented an idea for a new ministry that has been brought up within their council focusing on technology. We are living in a very different virtual world, but are still tasked to meet the needs of the community. Some support may be needed to bridge the gap and allow for larger and deeper engagement by both parishioners and lay leaders. This group would be made up of volunteer community members, not necessarily existing council members.

The main function of the group would be to liaise with and support other groups in their efforts to connect with the parish community at this time. This would not be another Council, but a group that could connect with any Council. There would need to be a staff liaison, but it is unclear what ministry area this group would fall under at this time as it really seems to touch all areas of ministry in the parish. Currently the function of technology is housed mostly under the Arts, Campus, and Gardens Council with the Director of Operations, Ken Reineccius, with the Worship Council having a large stake in the screens and technology used during Masses and other services. Because of this, AC&G was brought up to house this new ministry, as was Communications, with someone suggesting a shared responsibility with AC&G focusing on the “hardware” and Communications the “software,” Jane affirmed that whatever ministry area this is housed under, there will be a staff representative asked to work with the group, inherent in the council structure.

The main questions asked of the Community Council was did they also identify this need and should the Worship Council move forward with this proposal?

While the Community Council felt there was a need for this type of group, they recommend continuing with the exploratory process to answer some of the unclear issues above and also more clearly define what the function of the committee will be. The Worship Council was asked to supply a top 10 list of goals for this new committee to help with this. For example, would the group function proactively, researching new technologies and making suggestions on how to better improve what we already have, or will it be reactive, supporting users in how to use the tools we already have and acting as tech support?

6. Pax Christi 40th Anniversary (June 21, 2021): Group discussion facilitated by Dale Nelson.

Mike Schneider has only received a few people – **Councils are asked to please submit any names and contact information to Mike.**

Next Meeting – December 15, 2020

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32pm. Mary Frances Messer moved, Dave Putrich seconded.

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Ward.