

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, July 25, 2021

6:30 pm

Attendees: Clergy: Father Dillon. Trustees: Margot Burkle, Bill White. Members: President, Yolande Eldridge, Carol McCormick, Valerie LeShane, Sue Croce, Greer Koerner and Jill Kennelly.

Absent: Members: Maureen Fuest, Stephanie Deixler, Harold Hutchinson, Elaine Carter, Beth Kozarec, Debra Falvey, Criona O'Brien. Peer Ministry Representative: Matt Celotto.

Opening Prayer: Father Dillon opened the meeting with a prayer.

Introductions: The members of the Pastoral Council introduced themselves to Father Dillon and briefly shared their background. Many of the members spoke about the ministries with which they are involved.

The President of the Parish Council, introduced herself and gave a brief report on the recent activities of the Parish Council including, but not limited to, the sign in front of St George which says "Love One Another", a concern that the website needs to be updated, and that there has been discussion about adding a bi-monthly outdoor Mass. Father was also informed of the many ministries at St George and advised that a recently updated list of all the ministries will be sent to him and the entire council.

The members of the Council were reminded to update their head shot and brief biography and send it to Fran Wainer, the Operations Manager. It was also stated that approved minutes of all meetings are to be sent to Fran to be posted on the website. Members were also reminded that they will be contacted by Fran in the near future regarding updating background checks, as needed, and that they must also take the Virtus Course, currently available in Zoom format.

Father Dillon introduced himself and shared a brief history. After college, he worked for Cigna for 6 years. Then in 1993, after years of contemplation, he entered the Seminary. He has served parishes in Yalesville, Plantsville and was the Pastor in West Haven for 4 years before being assigned to St George. He is very impressed with the tremendous number of ministries at St George and with the level of volunteerism.

Father Dillon advised he has no particular focus at this time. He would prefer to attend several meetings of the Council this fall before making that decision.

Father Dillon was asked about the "Forward with Faith Foundation". Father Dillon explained that it is not part of the Bishop's Annual Appeal. The "Forward with Faith Foundation" is a separate campaign to raise funds to be split between the Archdiocese and St. George. The Archdiocese has given each parish a goal. St. George is expected to raise \$680,000 over a five year pledge period, half of which will be used for major projects at St. George yet to be determined, the other half to be used by the Archdiocese to fund Grants. It was suggested that listening sessions be organized to discuss possible building projects or campus improvements as well as fundraising efforts. Father indicated he planned to discuss this with Tom Duffy, a St. George parishioner and financial advisor. We are starting from ground zero with this effort.

Father Dillon was asked if he wished to make any change to the meeting schedule which has been the fourth Sunday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Church Hall. Father advised that since Sunday evening is the best time to use the Hall, we should keep the schedule as is. An updated list of meeting dates will be sent to everyone. There will be a meeting every month of the school year except December. The Council does not normally meet over the summer (July and August). The time of the meeting may be adjusted in the future, but is remaining at 6:30-8:00 PM.

There was a suggestion to amend the bi-laws to eliminate the requirement that members of the parish must give 2 weeks notice to attend and address a Parish Council meeting. This will be included for discussion at a future council meeting.

It was suggested that we reach out to the church community to find a member with computer expertise who might be able to help us update the webpage and that we should consider members of the Peer Ministry for the task. Any Peer Minister who helped work on the website could count those hours toward their community service requirement.

Closing: Father Dillon thanked everyone for attending. Meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm