

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2022
5:30 PM - Church Hall

Attendees: Clergy: Father Dillon Trustee: Bill White Members: Yolande Eldridge, Fran Wainer, Debra Falvey, Greer Koerner, Jill Kennelly, Betty Jane Schiller, Jody Fay, Milam Langella, Harold Hutchinson, Carol McCormick; Sue Croce

Absent: Trustee: Thomas Duffy Members: Elaine Carter, Beth Kozarec, Val LeShane
Peer Ministers: Connor DeBoda, Matt Celotto, Gabe Mongelli

Opening Prayer: Father Dillon opened the meeting with a prayer at 5:33

Potluck Supper: The members of the Pastoral Council enjoyed a potluck supper until 6:00 pm when the business segment of the meeting commenced.

Approval of the Minutes: The members received a copy of the proposed minutes, by email, to review. The Minutes were approved without correction.

Welcome to New Members: The new members of the Pastoral Council; Betty Jane Schiller, Jody Fay and Milam Langella were welcomed to the council. The new members will be recognized in the Church Bulletin.

Outgoing members thank you: The retiring members of the Pastoral Council; Val LeShane, Maureen Fuest, Margot Burkle, and Harold Hutchinson were thanked. The outgoing members will be recognized in the Church Bulletin.

Approval of proposed meeting calendar for 2022/2023: The members of the Pastoral Council were asked to review the proposed meeting schedule. After review, the members approved the meeting schedule for next year. The 2022/2023 schedule is as follows:

9/25/22	3/26/23
10/23/22	4/23/23
11/20/22	5/21/23
1/22/23	6/25/23
2/26/23	

Approval of proposed meeting time change: It was proposed that we change our meeting time from 5:30-7:00 pm to 5:00-6:30 pm. There was a brief discussion among the members. It was agreed we change the time with the understanding that we can change it back if the group finds the new schedule does not work as well.

Sympathy Cards: The Council was advised that sympathy cards were sent from the Council to Monsignor Shanley, regarding the death of his father and Father Stephen regarding the death of his brother.

Pastor's Update: Father Dillon reported that he had received a small amount of negative feedback regarding the change in the Sunday Mass schedule. He plans to proceed with the change based on the result of the ballot distributed in the Bulletin this weekend.

Father thanked the Council for a very good first year. Despite the complications of Covid 19, he is happy with the progress that was made.

Father was very pleased with the response to the veneration of the Holy Relic, Padre Pio's glove. He noticed a long line of parishioners lined up after the 10:00 am Mass to venerate the glove. At this time, other members of the Pastoral Council spoke about their experiences with other holy relics.

Father Dillon was also pleased with the attendance at the "Come Walk with Me" concert by International Irish Tenor, Mark Forrest. Those who attended agreed it was a special evening. Father indicated that he hoped we might have another opportunity in the future to have Mark Forrest perform at St. George.

Parish Liaison Report: Our Liaison advised that preparations for fall registration for the St George (Faith Formation (Catechism) program is proceeding. She is also working on completing the required background checks for Archdiocese Virtus on all members of the Pastoral Council. She has emailed paperwork to the members with instructions.

She also advised the group that there was \$684.78 of donations remaining after all of the backpacks and items were completed. This will be forwarded to the Re-Entry Welcome Center in New Haven. A check will allow them to purchase phone cards or other necessary items.

Report on Ministries: Due to the absence of the member who is updating the Ministry List, we had to postpone this discussion. Updating the Ministry List is a priority for the Council for next year. We plan to have the update complete before our first meeting September 25, 2022. Members of the group will follow up on the progress of the Ministry List update over the summer to be sure it is complete. It was suggested that each Pastoral Council member be a point person for approximately 5 ministries. We will follow up on this in the fall.

It was also suggested that the Pastoral Council facilitate a Stewardship Fair on Ministries in the Fall. Due to the pandemic, Stewardship Fairs have not been scheduled over the past couple of years. It was suggested that we contact the parishioner who previously coordinated these events.

Other business: There was another discussion on the reason(s) for the deletion of the St. Michael's Prayer from St. George masses. It was explained that many parishioners did not feel the prayer appropriate for young children. Father advised that the prayer was added by the Archbishop after the priest sexual scandal. He advised that not all parishes/dioceses say St. Michael's Prayer. It was decided that the group would revisit this issue at our first meeting in September.

Election of Officers: Jody Fay was nominated and approved as Secretary. Jody accepted the position. Greer Koerner was nominated and voted to remain Vice President. Greer accepted the position by email. Yolande Eldridge was nominated and voted to continue as President. Yolande accepted.

Next Year's Planning: Members of the Council were asked for input. What did we do well this year? What could we do better? What should our priorities be for next year?

It was agreed that the Backpack Ministry which the Council initiated and was supported by the Peer Ministers was very successful. The Parish Council improved communication with parishioners by updating the website to include all Council Members photos and by publishing the minutes monthly. The council also sponsored a Community Movie Event to encourage a spirit of welcome by the St. George community.

It was suggested that all Parish Council members should be a part of at least one Ministry. That led to the suggestion that each member should function as liaison to 5 or 6 ministries. It was agreed this will be the main focus of the Council in the Fall. Once the Ministry List is updated, each member will choose or be assigned as liaison to 5 or 6 ministries. The Council Member will check in with each Ministry on a regular basis, report on their activities to the Council and offer any assistance or support needed.

It was felt that the Council had had the "bottom pulled out" from it due to continuing Covid restrictions but had done better than average in spite of it.

This led to the suggestion that the Council host a Wine/Food Tasting in early November as an opportunity to encourage members of the parish to get to know their Parish Council. Several members volunteered to work on this project and will begin contacting participants and organizing the event. A date of Saturday, November 5th was selected. The event would begin immediately after the vigil Mass at about 5:30 pm. Tickets will be sold in advance.

One of the new members suggested other social events for holidays such as Valentine's, St Patrick's Day etc. The social committee, the Knights of Columbus and the Men's group already plan events for most of these occasions.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted, *Carol McCormick, Secretary*