



Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting Minutes

Date: January 12, 2021

Time: 7pm

Meeting was held via Zoom Video conferencing.

Eleven of twelve PPC members were in attendance as was the parish administrator, the parish priest, and one trustee.

Agenda Topics

7:00 Meeting Opening

Prayer lead by Cami.

Mission and Values read by Al.

7:03 Parishioner Forum

There were many positive comments with regards to the Christmas masses. A PPC member suggested that we recognize those who received baptism and first communion during the pandemic, once restrictions are eliminated. Perhaps this recognition can be done at a mass. This idea is to be forwarded to the Liturgy Commission for consideration.

7:08 Approval of November 2020 Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes made by Al and seconded by John C. Approved.

7:09 Old Business.

PPC response to GA Responds recommendations. Nancy summarized comments from the PPC in a document that was sent out before the meeting (located in the PPC Dropbox). Fr. Rodger felt it important that the PPC formally respond. Cami and Mike will review this summary with the GA Responds group at their next meeting. There was some discussion about the possibility of establishing the Hope for the Journey Home (HJH) as a separate non-profit 501(c)(3). Denny said that contributions designated for the HJH are passed through and not subject to assessment. Also, because of the tight connections to GA, a separate non-profit entity is likely not possible.

7:19 New Business.

Staffing Update (Fr. Rodger). With Sara's departure and with low attendance for faith formation distance learning, it is an appropriate time for us to step back and review our programs. Paul Deziel has formed a task force to do this. Several activities and actions have already taken place.

- Fr. Rodger is looking for an interim resource to assist during the pandemic.
- The Lifelong Faith Formation is developing interim solutions.
 - o A survey has been prepared.
- Focus on those who prepared for first communion but have not yet received.
- Collaboration with neighboring parishes.
- It is hoped that the task force will have recommendations ready by March 2021



- PPC members Nancy, Robyn, and Sarah G are on this task force.

Vision for a “new normal”. We should begin thinking about how GA programs may change.

The Justice and Outreach Commission has already started this process.

The PPC recommends that all commissions conduct this exercise too.

There was some feeling that we need additional communication resources as use of livestreaming will likely continue.

Will there be pent- up demand for engagement? Perhaps we need to have opportunities for engagement lined up and ready to go.

Once pandemic restrictions are removed, a PPC member suggested that Coffee & Crumbs be held every week for a while.

GA Coffee Corner. The subject of having a space for members to informally gather for fellowship after masses, or other times, has come up frequently over the years. For many, mass is the only time they see friends but there is no place for them to gather. The Holy Family room is not available during mass times. The area used for faith formation preparation may be ideal for a coffee corner. Another location for faith formation preparation is available. Space modifications may be needed to keep noise from reaching the worship space. This idea will be sent to the Welcoming Committee for consideration.

Live Streaming Committee. The Liturgy Commission is considering the formation of a special sub-committee to handle live streaming related activities.

8:00pm Liturgy Commission. Teri reported that the commission continues to be operating well. Recent activity focused on preparation for disability month. For the Christmas services, it was noted that all those attending had pre-registered. This remarkable achievement is due to excellent communication. We continue to have ~125 attend the in person, Sunday mass. There hasn't been request or need yet to increase the attendance limitation, but the Re-opening Task Force will be meeting again soon to discuss with new guidance considered.

How has the staff liturgy team structure been going? Fr. Rodger and Denny explained that nearly every staff member is involved in one way or another. It is clear that, eventually, we will need someone to coordinate this activity.

8:13pm Administration Report - Denny.

Financial contributions for Christmas achieved the budget of \$40k. The Stewardship process has progressed such that a third letter was deemed not needed. Approximately \$1.4 million is projected for stewardship revenue. This allows GA to continue programs with no financial limitations. Staff has been given pay raises. (The first in over 18 months.) For the fiscal year, we are approximately \$110k over budget for the first six months.

Fish Fry will be drive up only again this year. The distribution system will be similar to the one used for the Fall Festival chicken dinner. 2500# of fish has been ordered.



The PPC expressed appreciation for the extraordinary effort by GA staff in response to the pandemic! Perhaps a token of this appreciation can be given (e.g., gift certificate to the Lake Elmo Inn.) Denny will discuss with the Finance Council.

8:28 Pastor Report – Fr. Rodger.

Fr. Stan Maslowski has died. We expect the funeral will be held at GA.

8:29 Commission Reports additions. None.

8:30 Meeting Adjourned.

Action Items:

- Pandemic baptism and first communication recognition – referred to Liturgy Commission
- Review PPC responses with GA Responds Group – Cami and Mike.
- Faith Formation Task Force – Paul Deziel.
- PPC Visioning for “new normal” – PPC
- Commission Visioning for “new normal”- all Commissions.
- GA Coffee Corner – referred to Welcoming Committee
- Interim Faith Formation resource – Fr. Rodger.
- GA Staff Appreciation – Referred to Finance Council.

Submitted by Tom Rasmussen