

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 19, 2002 8:30 – 10:00 am
MINUTES
(Draft)

How does what we do affect the person in the pew?

Attendance:

x	Jo Berning	x	Russ Connacher	x	Dana Haering	x	Therese Hauer
x	John Hillenbrand		Doris Neuberger	x	Brisa Robinson	x	Renee Sheehan
x	Sue Spiersch	x	Jim Tham		Bill Thomas	x	Jim Walmann
x	Father Rich	x	Anne Marie Fourré				

Opening prayer:

In celebration of Pentecost, opened with a reflection on the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the commissioning of parish leaders the previous day.

Pastor's comments:

Father Rich presented several items the Council should keep in mind:

- What difference does what we do make? What impact do our meetings and our actions have on the person in the pew, and on the greater community?
- The reduction to one full-time priest in the parish is a significant change in our structure that must be addressed eventually.
- The poor should always be remembered.
- The financial situation in the parish is poor, and must be addressed soon.

Celebration of our gifts:

Council members received a worksheet to assist each in identifying our two strongest skills or gifts, which were then discussed with each other. Suggestion was made for each person to re-write his or her gifts, to personalize them. Next month there will be a follow-up to aid in identifying problems and solutions related to these gifts.

Evaluation of May Leadership Night:

Some commented that the commission meeting portion is not long enough for constructive work; perhaps better suited for administration and catch-up. Most of the commissions have additional meetings outside that time slot, which are more productive.

Concern that leaders do not understand the meaning of stewardship and what it means to be a stewardship parish. To address this:

- The Stewardship Committee has been charged with developing a timeline and format to educate the leadership and the parish on what it means to be a stewardship parish, what do we need to do to get there, what's driving us, that stewardship is how we think.
- The next three Leadership Nights will include time devoted to this education.
- Suggestion made that Rich explain at the next Leadership Night what is meant by stewardship, and why the emphasis is being given to this important topic (to

address the misunderstanding confusing stewardship (as in discipleship) with specific responsibilities of Stewardship/Administration Commission.

- Jo and Bill will re-work the structure chart to show the all-encompassing role of stewardship.

Noted that commissions are generating ideas that should be worked on in conjunction with other commissions, but there does not appear to be follow-up.

- Perhaps they should plan to meet together, either at Leadership Night or at a mid-month meeting. (Such as Community Life/Unity and Worship/Spirituality to plan intercultural liturgies and celebrations.)
- Also could be useful to publicize their agendas with the other commissions. (Not sure whether this means that every commission should email its monthly – or more frequent - agenda to every leader in every commission, or what....)
- Perhaps more time could be given following the commission meetings and subsequent 2-minute reports on Leadership Night for commission members to meet together to discuss joint projects.

Request was made to have someone summarize any common themes from the 2-minute reports at the end of each month's Leadership Night, to present at the beginning of the subsequent Leadership Night. Also next month to make a statement about the need to communicate among the commissions; if one commission comes up with a project that involves another commission, they must make plans to get together.

Commission Reports:

Noted that system needs to be set up to facilitate prompt completion of written commission reports. (Missing reports to be completed and distributed ASAP.) Anne Marie has been requested to propose a standard format for the future.

Suggestion made to distribute reports in advance, so this period of the Council meeting can be used in discussion of the issues rather than in providing status reports. (Which means co-chairs have to be advised to send out reports within two days following Leadership Night, since some people only have email at work and last-minute emails won't reach them in time for the Sunday meetings.)

Suggestion made to have more outreach from the commissions to their ministries and organizations, making sure there is two-way communication.

Role of Pastoral Council:

Jo presented an overview of the role of the Pastoral Council in the past, and distributed guidelines (last updated in February 1999) and information from the Diocese for the new members. It was noted that Councils are moving to be more spiritual, pastoral and visioning than before. Everyone then shared qualities or duties they believe are encompassed in the role of the Pastoral Council under this new structure:

- Operate upon a spiritual basis
- Provide leadership, enabling transformation of individuals and community
- Integration – disparate organizations operating as one body

- Cooperation – all working with respect for each other
- Communication – with each other, and with the person in the pew
- Create a vision
- Be open to solutions
- Assist people to evolve from pew-warmers to full involvement
- Organize and refine parish vision or mission
- Counsel pastor; serve as his eyes and ears
- Responsibility.

After reflecting on the materials and the discussion during the coming month, the Council will refine its role at its next meeting.

All of the prior Council members confirmed their readiness to continue serving until next January. (The new members have a two-year term.) Next month will have a discernment process, to select one new member to serve as co-chair for two years.

Covenant Book:

Jo, Renee and Anne Marie volunteered to serve on a task force to develop the parish Covenant Book, a resource that will be continuously updated. Noted that written guidelines are needed to provide expectations of commission leaders.

Evaluation of today's meeting:

Noted that there always seems too much to cover within the allotted time.

Next meeting:

Sunday June 16th, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m, the Sablan Room. Agenda to include presentation from Communication Committee; reflection on gifts; discernment of leadership (selection of co-chair); refining role of Pastoral Council; Stewardship education; Deanery interaction and goals.