

*Pastoral Council
Meeting Summary: August 23, 2018*

Participants: Carl Herde (Chair), John Dwyer (Vice Chair), Kenny Griffin (Secretary), Dean Brauner, Mike Lally, Cynthia Robinson, Susan Straub, Aaron Thompson (Finance Committee), Sean Murphy, and Father Steven Henriksen

Italicized statements= follow-up items or issues discussed after the 8/23/18 meeting.

Father Steven led the group in an opening prayer.

Carl Herde reported that consultations with Wehr Contractors has been occurring to both cost as well as to understand the vision embodied in the preliminary design of a new Pastoral Life Center, as discussed at prior Council meetings. An initial meeting was held on August 8 with additional analysis and participation from prospective subcontractors occurring on August 21.

Chairman Herde reflected upon the prior (1999) development campaign during which approximately \$2.4 million in contributions were dedicated.

Carl then presented a set of proposed by-laws for the Pastoral Council to govern its work. A draft proposal, submitted through Father Steven under separate cover, was the basis for discussion. Key elements included in the draft was the creation of prospective three-year terms (for ongoing as well as incoming members). For those Council members who have already served two, 2-year terms (meaning an initial appointment date in 2014), it was suggested that they indicate an agreement to continue service or not to the Chair as soon as practicable.

It was noted that two at-large members on the Council had transitioned off on June 30: Laura Lewis and Sara Horstman Morris. Appreciation for their service was expressed *and Father will follow up with certificates or another means of recognizing the ministry provided to the Council by Laura and Sara.*

With the general acceptance of the by-laws presented at this meeting, Father will move to approve and promulgate the draft as the governing document for Ascension's Pastoral Council moving forward.

Discussion occurred concerning the schedule of meetings for the Council for the 2018-2019 cycle.

The tentative meeting schedule (all times at 7pm) is:

2018

September 27 and
November 15.

2019

*February 21 and
March 28.*

April, May and June: TBA. Subject to the call of the Chair.

Father Steven then offered a report covering these topics: school enrollment, adult formation, a refreshing of the manner in which funerals are held at Ascension, and the 2018-2019 budget for the parish organization.

The enrollment at Ascension School remains stable. The 2018-2019 budget projected 185 students enrolled in K-8 with 40 in preschool (JK and 3-year-old offerings). The result has been 181 students enrolled in K-8 with 37 preschool offerings. The financial “shortfall” as a result of the difference between the budget and actual enrollment will be covered through a reduction in the expense associated with the parish-dedicated (non-school) payroll.

Father also highlighted new opportunities being offered in the area of lifelong (adult) formation. Among those opportunities are the establishment of a “Learn and Grow” series; the creation of a discussion group to consider the Pope’s apostolic letter (on the Call to Holiness); and a redesign of the parish’s approach to RCIA.

Fr. then drew attention to the approaches underway to refresh the parish’s commitment to social outreach (the strategic redesign work of the newly constituted Social Outreach Committee); to enlarge lay participation in the celebration of funeral rites; as to meet the needs of home- or place-bound parishioners.

Copies of the current year budget were distributed. It was noted that the Finance Committee had extensively reviewed and gave consent to the budget proposal.

Reports from the Committee chairs present (Aaron Thompson on behalf of Finance as well as Sean Murphy on behalf of the School Board). Aaron highlighted the audit plan prepared by Jim Thieman and reviewed by the Finance Committee (excellent work!). Sean discussed the highlights of the recent School Board meeting.

With no further business, the Council adjourned with the saying of the “Our Father.”

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Kenny Griffin
Secretary

