

Holy Spirit Pastoral Council

Meeting Notes

24 April 2022

Attendees: Rev. David Nestler, OFM Cap; Erin Whatley-Baker; Pete Jenkins; Reginald Jones; Kim Fortson; Jennifer McClellan Johnson, Erin Raines, Sofia Fasone

Absent: Sandra Madison, David Tucker, Brenda Anekwe-Smith, David Williams

1) Review Of Meeting Minutes From 23 January 2022. Approved as submitted.

2) Review Of Synod Listening Sessions

The council reviewed the draft report of our parish's synod listening sessions. The report noted our church's strengths. There were also challenges talked about during these sessions and much discussion about evangelizing around the community. There was a series of meetings about three years ago with other local church communities to talk about evangelizing and violence in our community. But the group did not succeed in sustaining itself, so our parish turned toward cooperative initiatives with our local government.

3) Holy Spiriteens Updates

- a) There was a synod session dedicated specifically for the teens of our parish but no one showed up.
- b) The committee held a dinner for the teens to have a discussion but only one person attended. She expressed her feelings about church, church attendance and challenges the church faces.
- c) The church needs to find ways to get the youth more involved and wanting to come to church. The conversation here was long and vast and mentioned the possibility of connecting with other churches to see how they have their youth involved. The council also discussed possibly having an open gym for the youth either before or after Mass each week.

4) Parish Picnic

- a) The council decided on having a parish picnic for the first time since the pandemic. The picnic will be held August 14 after the 10:30 am Mass and will be outside.
- b) At the picnic each parish group will be encouraged to set up a table to promote their service in our parish and community and invite more people from the parish to become involved. Hopefully the picnic will be an incentive for the youth to come to Mass that Sunday.

5) Synod Report Submitted To Diocese

- a) Margarete Smith and Charlotte Brown have worked very hard on these synod sessions and on accurately summarizing the content and tone of the conversations. The report will be sent to the diocese by the end of the month and the council is asked to review it and discuss it at future meetings. The conversations don't have to stop here; they will continue.
- b) Five delegates were chosen to go to the diocesan-wide event in June that closes this portion of the synodal process which will produce a report from the diocese sent to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The five delegates for our parish are Margarete Smith, Charlotte Brown, Rosalind Whatley, Erin Whatley and Tyric Green.

6) Asylum For Family From Afghanistan

- a) This project has temporarily stalled; but is being revived. Father David is going to try and contact the diocese again.

7) Training For Crisis In The Worship Place

- a) Father David has already been in contact with a sergeant from the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office. The council discussed who should be invited to this meeting. Also Kim Fortson's brother may be an important resource person and could be invited to this meeting to help answer questions.

8) Cranwood Drive Update

- a) The concrete has been poured for a new sidewalk; a treeline has been restored and a curb has also been raised in the hope of averting future damage to the sidewalk caused by drivers who assume to park vehicles on it.

9) Next Parish Council Meetings

Sunday, 17 July 2022

Sunday, 16 October 2022

10) Next Meeting

As the council ran out of time at this meeting, it postponed its review of the Pew Research Center Study on Black Catholics in America until the meeting in July.