

Holy Spirit Pastoral Council

Meeting Minutes

17 July 2022

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

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

- 1) **Review Of Meeting Minutes From 24 April 2022.** Approved as submitted.
- 2) **Review Letter from Bishop Malesic**

The response to our parish's letter did not come from the bishop; it was from Deacon James Armstrong, Director of the Department of Communications for the Diocese of Cleveland. The response from the deacon made it seem like the topic of racism was not important. It feels like we were glossed over as a church. It is hurtful that the bishop is too busy to respond personally; he had to have someone else respond for him. The response that Deacon Armstrong gave still did not answer the letter's core question. Blessed Trinity Parish on Puritas Avenue in Cleveland wrote a letter to the bishop after the mass shooting in Buffalo and received the same response we did. The council agreed that the right course of action is to wait and see if and how the bishop next responds after Deacon Armstrong puts our letter before him again.
- 3) **Training For Crisis In The Worship Place**

The council strongly affirmed that this training is very important and that we need to let the parish know how important it is to attend this event. The council also discussed the logistics of the event, particularly how to provide lunch prior to the 2:00 pm start time. Potential caterers were mentioned. The parish staff will follow up.
- 4) **Front Plaza**

The process for getting a grant for the plaza renovation has just started. The grant will make a huge impact on what the church will have to pay in the end. Ayeshah Douglas and Earle Turner will assist Father David at a meeting in early August applying for the grant.
- 5) **Nominations For Expiring Terms on the Parish Pastoral Council**

Reginald Jones' and Brenda Anekwe-Smith's terms expire in October this year. The council agreed that four new people ought be elected, bringing the elected membership on the council to twelve people. Nominations will open in August. At the end of August nominees will be contacted to see if they are willing to be on the ballot for election. New members will be elected in September and begin their service to our community in October.
- 6) **Epiphany Sunday and Fundraising**

The church's fifteenth anniversary is approaching. The council also discussed fundraising, and the two conversations merged.

A few fundraising ideas were put forth. There was strong agreement that fundraising is most effective when there is a definite project which the donated monies will support. An extensive

renovation of Mulligan Hall, the church bathrooms and the kitchen were discussed as an important project. If we put substantial resources into an upgrade for Mulligan Hall, we need to provide an elevator so that the hall is fully accessible. Doing one project without the other (a Mulligan Hall upgrade and an elevator in the church) is considered a waste of our resources; we need both. It was suggested that we could look for possible grants to get an elevator which would help with costs.

The council discussed having a lunch or dinner banquet to celebrate our fifteenth anniversary, and possibly be a kick-off for a fundraising effort. The anniversary date is January 8, 2023, Epiphany Sunday. Kim Fortson, on behalf of the council, is making inquiries into possible venues for a banquet.

7) Parish Fellowship Day

Help is still needed with set-up and food committees. Groups from around the church will set up tables during the picnic to invite more people to join their groups. Breakfast will be served before Mass in hopes of bringing the community out and then they will hopefully come to Mass after breakfast which will be celebrated inside at 10:30 am. After Mass the festivities will continue.

8) Mentoring Families

Plans to help a refugee family continue to move forward. Now we need to get a small group of people together who are willing to organize the effort and those who are willing to help. Those participating in the mentoring effort would assist a refugee family in ordinary tasks of daily living: going to the grocery store, obtaining a driver's license, using a city bus, and so on.

9) Smart Academy

Smart Academy is the charter school renting the school building from the parish; they are entering the fifth year of a five-year lease agreement with the parish and the diocese. The council discussed possible revisions of the terms of the lease should we want to renew an agreement. The council was advised that the academy has fallen behind on their financial obligations to the parish, citing cash flow and timing difficulties related to their government funding. The council discussed having a three-year lease instead of a five-year lease if we do renew with them. Diocesan officials are also involved in the conversation.

10) Next Pastoral Council Meetings:

Sunday, 16 October 2022
Sunday, 22 January 2023
Sunday, 23 April 2023
Sunday, 16 July 2023
Sunday, 15 October 2023

11) Next meeting

At the next meeting the council will discuss youth and youth ministry programs