

St. Joseph's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes for meeting of January 10, 2017

Attendees: Joanne Lee (*Chair*), Jacqueline Dawson (*Vice-Chair*), Richard Beaudette (*Pastor*), Chris Adam (*Exec. Director*), Herman de Souza (*Community Building Cluster*), Walter Hughes (*Faith Formation and Initiation Cluster*), Terry Byrne (*5:00 Mass*), Patricia Malikail (*Finance Committee Chair*), Greg Forestell (*Treasurer*)

Regrets: Angela McCanny (*Secretary/Pastoral Care and Social Justice Cluster*), Roshene Lawson (*11:30 Mass*), Iyobosa Grace Igbinedion (*9:30 Mass*)

Guest: Mary Murphy, Manager, Supper Table

1. Welcome, Opening Prayer

2. **Presentation by Mary Murphy.** In addition to the requested report on the activities of the Supper Table (ST), Mary mentioned having the ST operate on a membership model basis and the possibility of having a seat on Council.

She also spoke about having a membership profile for persons to serve on the Advisory Committee and the possibility of approaching Volunteer Ottawa.

Funding was one of the topics covered in the ensuing discussion and Mary spoke of concerns for sustainability and having a forward plan. Greg and Walter asked about a succinct message on the objectives of the Supper Table beyond feeding the clients. Mary replied that she saw the ST role as nourishing the whole community in a way that crosses borders, boundaries and any economic divides.

3. **Agenda agreed to:** Joanne noted the Agenda had Ongoing Business and Standing Discussion as distinct items. This arrangement is to respond to members indicating the importance of PPC taking both an oversight and a reflective perspective to Parish life and activities.
4. **Reflection:** Richard has arranged for Ron Holheiser's paper "Our Churches as Sanctuaries" to be circulated prior to the meeting in order for members to begin thinking about the ways the Parish could provide "sanctuary" in the broadest sense of the word. There was a wide-ranging discussion of the possibilities:
- Parish support for the "have nots" is focussed on food and material things but it should also provide for spiritual opportunities. This could be accomplished perhaps by weekly coffee chat sessions.

- People should be made comfortable in the Church and the Parish should support upholding dignity and extending welcome. This should go beyond the actual place where Mass is celebrated. Possibilities included making use of the library and Mary's focus group proposals.
- Council members and others should use the Welcome Desk location to ask newcomers for their names and look out for them returning on subsequent weekends
- "Sanctuary" should be offered not just from the legal system but other factors that create "outsiders" and that everybody is welcome to communion...divorced people, gays, outlaw liturgy adherents
- Opportunities should be created for like-minded people to engage (e.g., parents concerned with the child raising challenges and opportunities
- Ways should be found to reach people who have given up their faith (examples of how this could happen included the woman repairing the paint on statues and the gentleman making a new staff for St. Joseph)
- People want to be heard and there needs to be someone to listen to them
- Keeping in touch with parishioners who are housebound or in retirement or nursing homes (there is a Ministry that is concerned with that)
- Making sure that parishioners wrestling with problems know about the resources available

Father Richard concluded the discussion by observing that sometimes we get so caught up in the rhetoric that no action follows and we lose sight of day to day things. He said it was important to keep the concerns alive and responding to those who should be welcomed and need care. This goal, he said, picks up from the earlier remarks by Mary Murphy, namely to help people have a sense of self worth and dignity.

He observed that this involves dealing with people who do not understand the liturgy and, therefore, important to pay attention to who is coming in the door, giving a number of examples. He referred to the statement in Vatican II and the lay mission to spread the good news and live the mission of the Church.

4. **Ratification of Minutes of December 2016:** Jacqueline had received input from Walter on the version of the minutes circulated to all members which she will incorporate into the final version which she will send to Chris for the records and for posting on the website.

5. **Pastor's Report:** Father Richard's written report was circulated prior to the meeting. He spoke about the recent seniors' luncheon, which was attended by 14 people and indicated that suggestions for activities would be welcome. Terry asked about the revamping of reconciliation and Richard explained that the focus is now on reconciliation and the deeper significance of the sacrament. He mentioned that this might be covered in more detail in upcoming homilies.

6. Executive Director's Report: Chris' written report was circulated prior to meeting (note: it was suggested that the ED and Pastor's reports be appended to the PPC meeting minutes for posting on the website). He made particular mention of Roshene's advanced care workshop that did not have a high sign-up in initial stages but ended up as a "sell-out"

7. Finance Committee Report: In response to observations from some members, Chris committed to circulating the final version of the 2017 Budget. Jacqueline asked about December donations given that Christmas was on a Sunday and Chris explained that there really was no fall-off, with larger donations being made at the Christmas masses than at the regular Sunday Masses. Jacqueline reported that the \$2300 had been raised at the Choir's Christmas concert. Chris noted that the preliminary numbers for 2016 were a little better than forecasted (with anticipated small surplus) but there needed to be some revision to the amortization amounts and that \$4k was spent in December for an unexpected repair to the steam pipes. Walter asked about the amortization figures and Pat explained that the auditors provided the actual amounts. Greg pointed out that there needed to be a discussion this year on the fair split between operational and capital amortization. Chris suggested that this discussion could take place when the auditors come to the PPC meeting. Pat noted the commitment to ensuring consistent reporting and a separate capital budget.

8. Upcoming Events: Father Richard noted the blanket exercise scheduled for February 21, 2017. Chris noted Roshene's advance care session at the end of January. Pat suggested that a calendar of Parish activities be posted on the website or be put on the bulletin board at the back of the Church. Chris said that he would speak with Brandon Rushton about making these arrangements.

ACTION ITEM: Chris will speak to Brandon about posting a calendar of parish activities on the parish website or the bulletin board at the back of the church.

9. Standing Discussion: As far as the Vision focus was concerned, Father Richard agreed to prepare and lead an opening reflection for each meeting. Pat suggested that a catalogue be kept of PPC discussions under each of the Standing Discussion headings: *Vision, Governance* and *Community*. Terry asked about a report on the items entered on the flip chart by parishioners prior to the November retreat and Father Richard said that he would be doing a quarterly report. As far as formal communications with the Parish were concerned, Jacqueline will be canvassing members to set up a schedule for members preparing monthly PPC Bulletin inserts. Terry gave a brief history on the presently dormant "The Spirit" publication and members agreed that revival of the publication should be on the next agenda. Chris said he could prepare a background paper and maybe there could be advertisement or solicitations for contributions in the Bulletin. The discussions on Governance included noting that a Social Committee had been established and that the ED report would cover the Supper Table and the Women's Centre. Walter began the discussion of PPC membership by reporting that he was being pushed as a follow-up to the Stewardship Committee meeting to have fleshed out recommendations. Pat suggested that Council could have Committees who would focus on themes. Chris suggested doing a very visible event to make PPC membership more attractive, such as a dinner, lunch or a musical. Jacqueline noted that selection of members was behind schedule. Walter recorded his view that the whole parish should be

involved in decisions on PPC membership. Walter, Pat and Terry offered to work out some recommendations for the next meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Fr. Richard will prepare and lead a reflection at the beginning of each PPC meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Pat suggested that a catalogue be kept of PPC discussions under each of the headings.

ACTION ITEM: Jacqueline will canvas PPC members to set up a schedule for members to prepare the monthly PPC Bulletin inserts.

ACTION ITEM: Chris will prepare a backgrounder about "The Spirit" publication to support the revival of a parish newsletter.

ACTION ITEM: Future Executive Director's reports will include communications from The Supper Table and the Women's Centre.

ACTION ITEM: Walter, Pat and Terry will work out some recommendations regarding revitalizing PPC membership for the February meeting.

10. AGM: It was agreed that the AGM could be scheduled for Sunday, June 4. Father Richard suggested that a lunch barbecue, which he would gladly mastermind, precede the Meeting. Chris said he would check on making this booking.

ACTION ITEM: Chris will check on the availability of Sun. afternoon, June 4, 2017 for the AGM.

11. Food For Next Meeting: Joanne

12. Closing Prayer

Next meeting: Feb. 14, 2017

Parish Council Approval

Parish Council Minutes approved by consensus on: Feb. 14, 2017

Parish Council Vice Chair
Jacqueline Dawson

Minutes prepared by
Joanne Lee