

**St James
Pastoral Council Minutes
January 10, 2018**

Call to Order: Chair, Pat Buehler, called the meeting to order at: 7:00 pm.

Present: Dcn. Sandy Sites, Ellie Allen, Terry Brecklin, Pat Buehler, Joe Gonzalez, Ray Gross, Matt Hoffa, Tim Khoury, Jill Lehnen, David Topp, John Walker.

Excused Absences: Paul Stevens.

Gospel Reading and Reflection

Terry Brecklin read from the first book of Samuel (1SM 3:1-10, 19-20). This passage relates the story of a young Samuel who responded to God's third call of the night by saying, "Speak, for your servant is listening." This passage is one that prompts us to pay attention to, and even seek, God's call in our daily lives. God may communicate through the voice of our conscience, the wisdom of our mentors, the rush of our emotions, or the light of our ideas. Like Samuel, we must pay attention to these aspects of our lives—and work to discover their true source—in order that we may discern God's will for us.

Approval of Minutes.

Minutes were approved prior to the meeting via the email approval process.

Message from the Chair – Pat Buehler

- The retreat for the Pastoral Council and parish staff will be held on Saturday, February 10. The retreat is tentatively scheduled to begin at 8 am and end about 3 pm. Lunch will be served. (See below for additional details about the retreat.)
- The monthly Pastoral Council meeting will be on Wednesday, February 14th.
- We will retake the photos for the picture board. Date to be determined.
- Member bios which will be published on the website.

Parish Director's Report - Dcn. Sandy Sites

- The Lenten focus for this year is *Conversion: Journey of the Heart (Become the Light)*
- A new brochure describing the ministries at St. James is still in the works. The task is to update the information about our various ministries. Liaisons can assist with the task by asking their respective committees to identify the subgroups that fall under the umbrella of each major committee.
- The Human Concerns Committees from Good Shepherd and St. James met to discuss each parish's on-going work with their sister parishes. St. James' sister parish is St. Martin de Porres in Milwaukee. Good Shepard's sister parish is in Ellacuria, El Salvador. The purpose of the discussion was to reaffirm and reinvigorate each parish's efforts with their sister parishes, and to consider having a local and global sister parish at both St. James and Good Shepherd.
- Though not official, we expect St. James will get a second assistant priest as of July 1. Furthermore, Deacon Sandy Sites is expected to be appointed by the archbishop as Parish Director for St. James for another four years. Currently, there is no limit on the number of terms a parish director can serve.
- Council members were asked to reflect on the pros and cons of continuing the 5:30 pm Sunday Mass. Although the additional mass stretches our resources, it is one of the few Sunday evening masses in the area. Four groups--The Pastoral Council, Finance Council, Executive Committee, and the Prayer and Worship Committee-- will be asked for their recommendations about this issue. A decision will be made in May.

Finance Council Report – Joe Gonzalez, Finance Council Liaison

- Planning for the 2018 budget has begun and budget sheets have been sent out to the various ministries. The focus will be on budget contraction, not expansion,
- The Finance Council is refining its structure and will be identifying a chair, vice-chair and secretary. The Finance Council will also establish subgroups for Personnel, Agenda, and Building and Grounds. Three or four additional parishioners will be needed to support the work of the subgroups.
- The estimate for replacing the lighting in the worship space is approximately \$20,000. Monies from a benefactor and from our existing funds are insufficient to cover the entire project. The Finance Council is in the process of prioritizing critical and non-critical needs considering available resources.
- Other Finance Council Information:
 - Of the 1400 pledge cards distributed, 345 pledge cards were returned. This is a cause of concern.
 - Year-to-date, we have a budget shortfall of \$50,000 - \$60,000.
 - Documents for the Legacy Fund are undergoing legal review.
 - A mailing about the parish has been sent to approximately 300 new households in the Sussex-Lisbon-Menomonee Falls area. This outreach is being done on a trial basis.

Discussion and Discernment of Focus

The Pastoral Council selected two areas for focus: Stewardship and Discipleship. Each area will be a standing topic on our agenda for the coming calendar year. The following summarizes some of the discussion underpinning each focus areas:

- **Stewardship:** We will use our time and talents to build a community that inspires people to come to St. James because they feel welcome and connected to others. Our efforts to build community will consider the needs of current members, as well as new and potential members. We expect that the financial aspect of Stewardship will flourish as our sense of community and our level of discipleship grows.
- **Discipleship:** We will provide ways for members of our community to move to the next level in their spiritual growth. We recognize that not everyone is ready to take on Discipleship. Our intent is to foster spiritual growth for all, no matter their starting point.

Additional Discussion on the February 10th Retreat

Stewardship, Discipleship, and Change will be the topics guiding the retreat. The purpose of the retreat is to refresh our souls and bring us into a closer relationship with God. Gerry Wolf will facilitate the retreat which will include Mass and time for individual silent prayer. There will be time for Pastoral Council and staff members to discuss the focus areas selected by the council, as well as exchange ideas.

Other:

Jill Lehnen will select a scripture reading for the February meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:19pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Terry Brecklin
Secretary

Mission Statement

St. James is a vibrant, welcoming Catholic Community journeying towards the fullness of the Kingdom of God through worship, formation and service.