

Church of St. Patrick
Parish Administrative Council
January 21, 2014

Minutes

Members present: Fr. Steve, Jerry Barnes, Joyce Wittman, Jim Strouth, Helen Hennes, Joan Conway and Mary Nordstrom. Pat Burgmeier was absent.

Our minutes from November's meeting were approved with a correction to the Maintenance Committee. The sentence should read, "This committee will be Jim Strouth, Steve Onnen, Mike Cronen, Jerry Barnes, and Mike Cain; with Steve Onnen as the lead contact." The agenda was approved as printed.

Pastor's Report: Father Steve thanked everyone for helping with the Christmas environment and liturgies. He also commented that it was nice to have the sound system working this past weekend. New Life came and worked on the system last week.

Area Committee reports: We reviewed the printed minutes from the Area Committees.

Father Steve noted that the Area Faith Formation staff is working on making a recommendation on a common curriculum for Faith Formation. They will make this recommendation to the Area Word Committee.

The Area Worship Committee had a discussion on the location of the Area Easter Vigil. This year, it will be held at the Church of Our Lady of the Lakes in Spicer. A team will be put together to work on this liturgy. Confirmation for the area faith community will be held on February 9 at the Church of St. Mary. With the size of the crowd, this is the only facility large enough to hold this liturgy.

Parish Committee / Organization Reports:

Knights of Columbus: looking for a new financial secretary. Jim will check with Tony about doing Soup Suppers during Lent. Joan noted that the parish will be doing Stations of the Cross.

Cemetery committee: has not met, however Father Steve did send out some thank you notes regarding the improvements done at the cemetery and to Mike Cain regarding the work he has done there.

Financial Reports: Father pointed out that we had to move money from savings in December in order to pay our bills. The Christmas collection helped get us through.

A discussion took place regarding St. Patrick's parishioners who attend Mass at other parishes in the AFC. Many of them use their St. Patrick's envelopes and they get couriered each week. It is also nice to see that many come forward at the time of the Ham Dinner. Father Steve recommended that we send out a "census update" letter asking people to verify their

information and confirm the parish where they are members. This will help us provide us a more accurate count to the diocese. Jerry had a couple questions regarding line items.

St. Patrick's Ham Dinner & Raffle: We discussed raffle tickets and whether or not we need to have numbered tickets or printing the prizes on the tickets. Joyce, Gordy and Mary will discuss the options and make the decision they feel is best. Tony has purchased the hams. Diane will chair the event again this year.

Family Promise / Safe Harbors - homelessness

Safe Harbors is run by Heartland Community Action Agency. It is five motel rooms in Willmar that provides for homeless people in the county. The area faith community, via the Church of St. Mary's tithing program, funds one of those rooms for ten months a year.

Family Promise is an organization that is trying to get thirteen "host" church congregations to agree to house homeless families four weeks a year ($13 \times 4 = 52$). Only families are qualified to use Family Promise. Currently the largest growing number of homeless is teenagers. They would not be eligible for Family Promise.

Host congregations would provide an evening meal, overnight accommodations and a morning meal. They would also have to have volunteers on site while the families are present. If a congregation is unable to be a host, they are also invited to "partner" with a host and help with funds, volunteers, meals, etc... For our area faith community, when we refer to "congregation," any commitment we make would be for the whole AFC, not just one parish. We have three facilities that could work - St. Mary's, OLOL, and St. Patrick's. St. Patrick's would be the one with the fewest scheduling conflicts.

A discussion took place about the possibility of being a host congregation. There was strong support for it as a sign of our Christianity, but that parishioners need to be forewarned. Father Steve brought up that before any commitment is made, we need to ensure that we are in it for the long haul, not just for the short term. There are some questions regarding insurance and fire codes, etc... There are also still a lot of questions regarding the whole Family Promise concept. The Area Service Committee is the group that will review this and make a recommendation to the Area Pastoral Council.

Sound System: We reviewed a proposal from New Life regarding upgrading our sound system. As was noted earlier, it is currently working, but it is on its last legs. Financially, it is a stretch, but if people can't hear, then they cannot experience worship to its fullest. We discussed whether or not we need a second bid. Because of New Life's reputation, and its locality in Willmar, we are comfortable with the company. Because the system is still working, we are going to wait on the bid while the Maintenance Committee evaluates other projects that are coming up.

Snow Shoveling: Fr. Jim has a bad back and is not able to shovel the snow around the rectory. We have communicated this to Brian.