

Church of St. Patrick
Parish Administrative Council
MINUTES – 9/22/2014

Present: Father Steve, Helen Hennes, Jackie Ostendorf, Jim Strouth, and Mary Nordstrom.

The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the parish house now that Father Jim has been moved from our area faith community. We identified four possible solutions:

- 1) Sell the house,
- 2) Rent the house,
- 3) Leave it vacant,
- 4) Have an employee live in the house

At this time, we don't feel it is a good idea to try and sell the house. Some reasons are:

- There is still a possibility that at some point in the future a new priest assigned to our area faith community may choose to live there.
- There is not much storage space in the church, and using that space in the rectory basement is beneficial.
- Due to the parking lot and driveway pretty much surrounding the house, it may be difficult to split off the property to sell it.

We also don't want to become landlords:

- The property would lose its tax-exempt status if we charge rent and we would be required to pay property taxes.
- We would be responsible for paying income tax on the rental income as it is unrelated to our business as a church (UBIT – Unrelated Business Income Tax).
- We lose the ability to use the basement for storage.
- We don't have time to act as landlords – qualifying applicants, collecting rent, taking care of property issues, etc...

Leaving the home vacant is not a good option as vacant houses attract vandals and rodents, and we would have the risk of frozen pipes, malfunctioning furnace, etc...

Having an employee live in the home seems to be the best solution:

- Having specific responsibilities defined in the employee's job description allows the church to retain the tax-exempt status on the property.
- The church can use the basement (and garage) for storage.
- The house will be occupied, so issues can be identified promptly.
- Having an employee live there shows Fr. Steve's commitment to Kandiyohi, and that there's no intention to shut the doors just because the resident priest has been reassigned.
- The employee will assume the cost of utilities and normal maintenance items, reducing the AFC budget.

Father Steve is proposing that Mary Nordstrom live in the house and the PAC agreed.

Father Jim still has items in the office, the spare bedroom and the garage. Since he is in Guatemala for the month of October, it will be November before he is able to finish moving.

Also due to Father Jim's reassignment, Father Steve and Father Jerry met to discuss immediate changes to the daily Mass schedule.

- There will no longer be a Tuesday Mass in Lake Lillian (it had been occurring every other week).
- There will only be daily Mass in Kandiyohi at 5:30pm on Thursdays. The ones on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday have been cancelled.
- There will only be Mass in Willmar on Fridays on the first Friday of the month, prior to exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

The Area Pastoral Council and each parish's Administrative Council will be discussing possible changes to the AFC Sunday Mass schedule to begin January 1. The discussion will be based on two criteria:

1. How many Masses do we need in the AFC?
 - a. Mass attendance
 - b. Church capacity
2. How many Masses can each priest celebrate each weekend?
 - a. Father Steve is going to be very protective of Father Jerry's health and limit him to three per weekend.
 - b. Realizing that this is a marathon, not a sprint, Father Steve would like to limit himself to four Masses per weekend.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 6:00 pm.