

**Catholic Area Faith Community of Jesus Our Living Water
Area Pastoral Council Meeting
September 19, 2013 – Church of St. Mary, Willmar**

MINUTES

Members present: Christa Rivers, Ron Dobbs, Joan Conway, Terry Braun, Donna Carver, Dave Reed, Tim Macik, Father Steve, and Mary Nordstrom. Erin Wendt and Jared Anez attended the meeting to present information regarding Small Christian Communities.

Members absent: Michelle Ridl, Fr. Jim, Fr. Jerry

We began with opening prayer and a recommitment to our AFC Vision.

The minutes from May 16 were approved, as was the agenda for tonight's meeting with the addition of the Diocesan Hispanic Assembly.

Area Bereavement Subcommittee has its 4th Bereavement Workshop on Saturday, October 12. The Area Health & Wellness Subcommittee provided training last week for people doing home visits. Please encourage people who might need visits to call the St. Mary's office to get a visit scheduled.

The Area Service Committee presented a draft copy of their purpose statement and goals. There was a question about the timeline on two of the goals, and a suggestion to make a small change to one of the other goals. Fr. Steve and Mary will take these suggestions back to Helaine.

The Area Worship Committee also presented a proposal of their purpose statement and goals. There was a comment to change the word "pastors" to "priests" on the second page. M/S/P to approve the statement and goals with the change of "pastors" to "priests."

We reviewed the financial reports for both the end of the fiscal year and the end of August. Father Steve pointed out the beginning of the equipment fund that we created with the surplus at the end of June. This fund will be used in the future when we need to make major equipment purchases.

Father Steve discussed the lawsuit against the Diocese of New Ulm regarding Fr. David Roney. He pointed out how diligently the Church is working to help prevent sexual abuse from happening in the future. We need to remember the pain that the victims have experienced and are continuing to experience. The Diocese is providing counseling and services to any victims who come to them.

Information Items

St. Mary's Fall Festival is on Sunday, September 29.

Our Lady of the Lakes Fall Festival is on Saturday, October 5.

Discussion Items

Erin Wendt and Jared Anez presented an update on small Christian communities.

Jared gave background on his and Kami's experience with small Christian communities and how excited they are to be part of this in our AFC.

Erin explained the process that the subcommittee will be using to initiate the groups.

The first milestone will be a "Taste and See" mini retreat on Sunday, November 10 from 12:00 noon - 4:00 pm at the Church of St. Mary. There will be time on that day for registration.

Groups will be formed from now through December.

Facilitator training will take place in mid-December.

The kick-off will be held on Sunday, January 5 at the Church of Our Lady of the Lakes.

The Council approved the subcommittee's proposal, and applauded the work that has been done so far.

We discussed the APC purpose statement that we began working on at the meeting on September 3.

to bring feedback from individual parishes, then make plans on how to move forward and to take information back to the parishes

like a bridge to and from the individual parishes

have to pray and have courage to develop the long range plans

take baby steps and don't expect miracles to happen

be strong enough to identify what won't work as well as what will

tough to overcome people who don't want to lose their individual parish identities

small Christian communities may be helpful in bringing people together

good to be welcomed at each of the churches when we worship at a different site.

both the large and small parishes need to be prepared to change

We have come a very long way in five years. It's nice to be part of the larger community.

Fr. Steve referred to the APC as his version of the President's cabinet. He looks to the APC as the advisory council to the pastor. Not the only advisory council, as there are advisory councils in each parish. The members of the APC are overseers and keepers of the vision of the area faith community.

One of the most important things this council does is to review the minutes of the area committees, their purpose statements and goals and ask, "will these goals further the vision of the area faith community?"

The APC needs to look at every recommendation through the lens of "How does this further the vision of the area faith community?"

"The purpose of the Area Pastoral Council is to keep, oversee and promote the vision of the area faith community."

Once we have purpose statements and goals of the standing committees, each of us should be reviewing them before the APC meeting to look for how they are accomplishing them.

We discussed goals and objectives for the area faith community. What are two or three goals we have for the APC for the next six months or year?

One idea might be to invite members from one of the standing committees to attend. We could set up a schedule so that we could invite them to attend at 6:30 and have a small social hour with them.

Could have the APC attend an after-Mass social hour at each parish.

Could publish the agenda prior to the meeting, putting it into the bulletin.

Time and Talent weekend will be October 12/13. Ministry books and pre-labeled forms will be mailed to all households on October 3. This year we are doing one booklet and one form for the entire AFC. We are also hoping to have the form available online for people to fill out. The area staff is committed to providing timely follow-up of the people who have signed up. Volunteers will be given the opportunity to serve at any of the four worship sites.

The Church of St. Mary is hosting the Diocesan Hispanic Assembly on Saturday, October 19. Parishes with Hispanic Worship sites are invited to send staff, leadership, and parishioners to this meeting.

Future agenda items:

Goals

Time and Talent

Meeting time during winter months

Our next meeting is Thursday, October 17 at the Church of Our Lady of the Lakes in Spicer.