

**Area Pastoral Council**  
**October 16, 2014**  
**MINUTES**

Present: Father Steve, Father Jerry, Terry Braun, Christa Rivers, Pat Malmgren, Donna Carver, Joan Conway, Dave Reed, Michelle Ridl, Ron Dobbs and Mary Nordstrom. **Absent:** Tim Macik

We began with opening prayer and recommitment to our area vision. The minutes from May and tonight's agenda were approved.

**Pastor's Report:** Father Steve discussed budget adjustments that can be made to the AFC budget due to Fr. Jim's new assignment in Ortonville. We reviewed the budgeted expenses, spend-to-date, and amount that could be reduced from the AFC budget for November through June, 2015. A motion was made to reduce the parishes' assessments for a total amount of \$41,943.87 for the rest of the fiscal year.

- Father shared with the council that the St. Patrick's PAC has recommended that Mary Nordstrom move into the rectory and assume the monthly costs of the rectory, and she will be able to keep an eye on the property and on the church. This allows us to include the rectory costs as part of what will be reduced from the Area budget.
- Each member of the AFC staff is working on his/her KRAs and SMART goals for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. Father will be sharing them with the APC next month. This will give the council visibility on the items that have been prioritized this year.
- He also reported that our AFC received the Partner in Hope award from Heartland Community Action Agency in response to the work we've done to assist the poor and needy in our community. This will be recognized at a banquet on October 24. Because we were nominated due to our commitment to door ministry, Father has invited members of the Tithing Committee to join him at that banquet in acknowledgement of their funding of door ministry.
- Our AFC has experienced a large number of funerals recently. We offered our condolences to Joan Conway on the loss of her husband, Joe.

**Area Committee reports:** Mary handed out an updated copy of the Area Service Committee minutes from October 7. There was clarification on the AFC being a supporting congregation to Bethel Lutheran, who would be the host congregation for Family Promise of Kandiyohi County (FPKC). When it is Bethel's turn to host,

they will call us to provide food and volunteers. By partnering with Bethel, we will know the weeks in advance, and we know that we are partnering with a church with whom we have a good working relationship. Brief discussion took place on the timeline for FPKC to begin their ministry. They are hoping to begin before this winter, but still have some preliminary work to do. No discussion occurred regarding the other committee reports.

**Financial Reports:** Father discussed the financial reports and the role of each PAC in terms of reviewing them. Rather than having each PAC review the line items on the financial reports, he is recommending that we re-implement an Area Stewardship Committee. It was suggested that a person from each PAC - possibly a trustee - be the representatives on the committee. Another option was that we invite both trustees of the parish and that one of the two would attend. They would only need to meet every two or three months.

**Information items:** Two AFC events are coming up in the next few weeks: The Bereavement Workshop on Saturday, October 25 and the Area Evening Prayer of Remembrance on Sunday, November 2. Both will be held at the Church of St. Mary in Willmar.

**Ministry Spotlight:** Mary gave an overview of the ministry spotlight that will happen on Christ the King weekend, November 22/23. This first spotlight will be on the Area Pastoral Council and the Area Committees. It will be an opportunity for parishioners to learn more about the council and committees. More details will be provided at our next meeting.

**Discussion/Action items:**

1. 2013-2014 Parish self-studies - we reviewed the combined parish self-study numbers for 2013-2014. Our population of adults over the age of 50 is going up and school-age children are going down. We need to keep this information in mind as we plan ministries and programs.
2. Sunday Mass schedule
  - As Father Steve has indicated in his articles in the bulletin, with Father Jim's new assignment in Ortonville, we need to look at changing our Sunday Mass schedule. With Father Jerry being over 70 – thus eligible to retire at any time – and with Father Steve now celebrating the Spanish Mass each week and working to learn the language to be able to preside in that language, we need to reduce to no more than seven Sunday Masses each week. There are weekends where, due to funerals and weddings, the priest(s) will be

celebrating more than the regular Sunday schedule. The goal has been to make that adjustment on January 1, 2015.

- At Pastoral Leader Days, Father Tony Stubeda led the priests on how he led his AFC through the process of determining an area Mass schedule, and reducing the number of Masses. He held meetings at each of his parishes. There were questions that the attendees discussed and answered in small groups. The people in attendance were told that they were not making the decision on a Mass schedule, but that all of their input would be weighed and considered as the Pastor and APC made a final decision.
  - Do we want to try this approach, or have the APC work on a recommendation? The council feels that it would be important to offer parishioner input. We will distribute the questions that Fr. Tony used to the council before next month's meeting. The Advent Fiat will include some information regarding the upcoming meetings.
  - The council will select a temporary solution at the November meeting that will take effect January 1. We will also identify some of the "non-negotiable" items that go into the decision-making process: i.e. Father Jerry will not be scheduled to celebrate more than three Sunday Masses a weekend and Father Steve will not be scheduled to celebrate more than four.
3. Discipleship retreat to be held on Saturday, January 24, 2015 at 9 am at the Church of St. Mary - Sister Ellen Doyle from Catholic Leadership Institute will be leading the retreat on discipleship. It will be geared toward people who are engaged in the life and the mission of the Church and our area faith community. It will not be limited to those who we would identify as the "engaged" as an open invitation will be given, but will be aimed at helping us go out and make disciples out of others in our parishes.
  4. We also discussed bulletin items and also the possibility of putting other parishes' calendars out in each worship site. We talked about inserting each bulletin in each parish, but thought that may be too many inserts. We also discussed one calendar with all events included, but that may be too overwhelming at this time. Having each parish's calendar available at each worship site seems to be the easiest first step.

**Next meeting:** Our next meeting will be **Thursday, November 20 at the Church of St. Patrick.**