

Catholic Area Faith Community of Jesus Our Living Water
Area Stewardship Committee Meeting
March 5, 2015

Present: Father Steve, Mary Jo Schmoll, Joan Conway, Bob Hogan, Steve Maher, and Mary Nordstrom.

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

Pastor's report: Father Steve reported on the bulletin insert regarding the notices of claim that have been filed against the Church of St. Mary and the Diocese of New Ulm concerning alleged sexual abuse of minors by Fr. David Roney when he was serving in Willmar (1960's). The Church of St. Mary has retained an attorney to help in this matter. Any parishioners with questions should be directed to Father Steve.

Father also reminded us of the upcoming Parish Consultation Meetings being held on Monday, March 16 at the Church of St. Thomas More and on Thursday, March 19 at the Church of St. Patrick. Letters were sent out this week to all registered parishioners of those two parishes inviting them to attend their meeting. The purpose of the meetings will be to look at where we are today/what do we look like? and where will we be at various points of time in the future/what will we look like?

AFC financial reports:

1. We reviewed the AFC financial reports for February, explaining what is included in some of the line items and why some variances to budget exist.

Discussion/Action items

1. We approved the proposed purpose statement, *The purpose of the Area Stewardship Committee is to prepare and oversee the area budget and its finances, and to make recommendations to the pastor regarding personnel policies, salaries, benefits and staffing levels.*
2. We discussed the upcoming budget process. For the benefit of the people who weren't present at past meetings, Father has directed staff to "use a sharp pencil" when preparing department budgets. We need to keep the budget as flat as possible. Father wants the Stewardship Committee, the Area Pastoral Council, and the Parish Administrative Council to identify items that they feel need to be included in the budget (i.e. a mission, another retreat, etc...)
3. We continued our discussion on how to differentiate between budgeted (AFC) expenses and expenses paid by the parish. We agreed that:

- Major expenses of the physical plant (church/rectory) – roof, foundation, walls, floors, HVAC, parking lot would be paid by the parish if they exceed the defined threshold.
- There is a current Diocesan policy defining that any maintenance expenses over a certain percent of the annual parish budget require the bishop to grant a proxy for the expense. We are going to look at the Diocesan policy and see if we can use that wording to come up with a percentage that could help define our threshold. Father Steve and Mary will work on this.

Next meeting:

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, April 30, at 5:00 pm at the Church of St. Mary. We will invite department heads to this meeting as it will be when the budget is presented.