

Catholic Area Faith community of Jesus Our Living Water

Area WORD Committee Minutes

Tuesday, November 4, 2014

7:00 pm – Church of St. Patrick, Kandiyohi

Joint Agenda

Opening Prayer – Bishop Ken Untener’s Reflection

Recommitment of Our Vision – *“Sharing the life of Christ ~ Being the love of Christ”*

Pastor’s Report

- (DMA) Diocesan Ministries Appeal will be November 15/16. The monies received helps support the various ministries carried out by the Diocese.
- November 22/23 our Area Parishes will be doing a recommitment of our Area Vision.
- The APC recommends area wide consultation meetings in February to provide input on permanent Mass schedules with two priests. In January, 2015 a temporary schedule will take place that will eliminate one Mass in our Area Faith Community.
- ASC needs to have a conversation tonight around the Giving Tree and decide who will go to the information meeting at the First Presbyterian Church on November 11 regarding Family Promise.
- The AWC needs to plan for the Advent Season as we will not have a meeting in December.
- All committees plan for the November 22/23 “Spotlight” of our Area Committees in all four parishes.

Area Word Members Present: Pat Laib, Diane Cronen, Debbie Becker, Aurora McCleary, Erin Wendt and Diane Pyka

Absent: Randy Suter

Review of Minutes and Agenda

Committee Specific Agenda:

Spotlight weekend – November 22/23. We discussed the following:

- **Our purpose statement** – The Area Word Committee is to discern, organize, and offer opportunities for people of all ages to become engaged and grow in their faith.
- **Our goals are:** Collaborate and share opportunities for ministry to our children and youth, develop a common faith formation curriculum for the Area Faith Community youth – age preschool to 12th grade, develop and offer area adult faith formation opportunities for all adults from post-secondary to senior citizens.
- **The time commitment:** Members serve 3-year terms and may serve two consecutive terms. The Committee meets monthly from September through May (except for December and March) and rotate to each worship site (parish).

- **Members currently on the committee:** Pat Laib, Debbie Becker, Randy Suter, Diane Cronen, Aurora McCleary, and two Faith formation staff. We have openings for one member from St. Patrick and two members from St. Thomas More.
- **Four things that the Area Word Committee has accomplished:** Area Small Christian Communities; an Area Faith Formation program this year at two sites, one Area Vacation Bible School and an Area Comprehensive Youth Ministry Team for all parishes.

Committee members available to answer questions at the Spotlight Display:

Saturday, November 22 - Diane Cronen for the 4pm Mass at StP & Diane Cronen for the 5:30pm Mass at StM - Open spot for the 5pm Mass at OLOL.

Sunday, November 23 – Pat Laib for the 10am Mass at OLOL, Aurora McCleary for the 10:30am Mass at StM. Anisabel Palma for the Noon Mass at StM. Opening for the 8:30am Mass at StM.

Faith Formation Program Report from Erin Wendt on Grades 3-6 – Erin shared the “Finding God” curriculum used for grades 3-6 for the area and told about its features. Each catechist has a Catechists Guide and each student a textbook. There are also art easels for every classroom. Erin provides a lesson plan for each lesson with two hands-on activities. Erin also reported that there is one 5th grade class being taught in Spanish. Anisabel Palma shared that she is teaching the Sacramental Preparation class for thirteen Hispanic students in Grades 3-6 that are out of sequence for the sacraments using the Grade 2 “Finding God” curriculum.

Area January Retreat on Discipleship – committee discussed the importance of getting the word out to as many people as possible in a variety of ways. Anisabel informed the committee that there will be a phone conference with Sister Ellen Doyle with the retreat committee soon and the details will be given at our January meeting. Suggestion for the retreat committee from this committee was: factor in quiet time and prayer, no role plays, movement throughout the day would be appreciated and music is important.

Future Agenda Items:

- Grades P-2 Report (Information) Barb Garding
- Spotlight (Discussion/Input)
- Area January Retreat/Promote SCC (Discussion/Decision)
- Membership (openings from StP and StTM)

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting will be Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at The Church of St. Mary, Willmar

Submitted by Diane Pyka