

Church of Our Lady of the Lakes
Parish Administrative Council
March 25, 2014
MINUTES

Present: Father Steve, Ron Dobbs, Berni Schwaegerl, LaVon Gustafson, Steve Maher, Luann Sieben and Mary Nordstrom.

We began with opening prayer and commitment to our AFC vision statement. Our minutes from March and tonight's agenda was approved.

Pastor's Report: Father Steve reported that Bob Marciniak's family has offered to donate his electric wheelchair to Our Lady of the Lakes, which can then offer it to someone who is in need of one but unable to afford it. It was suggested that we have the Area Service Committee look for an individual or organization who could use the wheelchair.

Father also gave an update on staffing in the AFC. The Area Directors of Faith Formation have been selected. Barb Garding will be doing preschool-grade 2; Erin Wendt grades 3-6; Diane Pyka grades 7-9, and Christine Pinto grades 10-12 and youth ministry. All of these areas have responsibilities for adult (parent) catechesis, and the directors will be responsible for their grade levels at both Our Lady of the Lakes and in Spicer. One position remains open, Hispanic Ministry and RCIA. Father Steve has a couple of viable candidates and hopes to conduct interviews mid-June.

Area Pastoral Council Report and Area Committee Reports: No comments

Finance Reports: There was some clarification on unrestricted funds and the balance of the maintenance fund after the retirement of the rectory debt.

Information items:

1. **Staffing:** In addition to the area positions described above, Father Steve shared that as we are able to reduce duplication in positions, there will be some minor responsibility and hour changes.
2. **Baccalaureate:** Father Steve, Barb, and Diane will be attending to represent OLOL at New London-Spicer's program.

Discussion/Action items:

- a. **New Life Communication bid on Video System:** We reviewed the bid submitted by New Life to put in screens and a video system in the church and gathering space. Their bid does not include getting power to the units, so an electrician would also be needed. There were also questions about whether or not their bid included a camera (the ability to record a Mass/service) and training. Mary will check with them on these questions.

We also discussed the benefits of installing a system: the congregation participation is much higher as they are looking up instead of having their heads down into a book; we would reduce the amount we spend each year on Breaking Bread books; it would be more friendly to visitors and guests. On the other hand, it is a large expense, and some people may not like the aesthetics of screens.

It was agreed that all council members will talk to parishioners over the summer and we will make a decision at our first meeting this Fall.

- b. **Budgets:** We reviewed the possibility of having one budget for expense (not income) in the AFC beginning July 1. Father Steve met with the trustees (or their representatives) from all four parishes to discuss this possibility prior to presenting it to any one council. One budget would greatly simplify the bookkeeping in our parishes. We currently have many accounting transactions simply to reimburse the other parishes or the AFC. It also moves us forward into being one community. The council recommended going forward with one area budget for expenses.

How does this change the role of the Administrative Council? Instead of looking only at the expenses incurred by Our Lady of the Lakes, the PAC will receive the income statement for the whole AFC; however, it will enable the PAC to become less focused on individual budget items and focus on proactive planning and activities that take place in Spicer.

We also reviewed the Our Lady of the Lakes' budget for income. The council recommended approval of it as well.

- c. **PAC membership:** Tonight is LaVon's last meeting on the Council. We thank her for her service to the parish.

- d. **Area Tithing Committee:** We need to find two or three parishioners from Spicer to sit on the Area Tithing Committee. The tithing money from both OLOL and St. Mary would be pooled, and the entire Tithing committee would make recommendations. The committee meets twice a year, in January and May to make the allocations.

- e. **Bishop LeVoir's articles in the *Prairie Catholic*:** We did not discuss Bishop LeVoir's articles from the April issue of the *Prairie Catholic*, but Father Steve strongly encouraged the council members to be reading them.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, September 9, at the Church of St. Mary in Willmar for the All Council/Committee gathering.