

EPIPHANY PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

March 9, 2010 – 8:30 p.m. – Meeting Rooms

Members Present: Amy DeRaad, Mary Beth Ineson, Mike Kraft, Mike Lentz, Bob Mueffelman, Alan Savage, Steve Sorsen, Tim Sullivan, Emey Vaillancourt, Mary Zielinski

Members Absent: Robert Breitbach, Fr. Dennis Zehren

OPEN MIC

No Open MIC this evening.

APPROVE FEBRUARY MINUTES

February Minutes were approved.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: DISCERNMENT STRUCTURE UPDATE

Father, Tim, Robert, Mike, and Amy discussed the current structure. The subcommittee met on Friday to discuss discernment and stewardship. Stewardship was not discussed, since we focused on discernment. The group agreed to begin with a visioning process. Without knowing where we want to be in 3 or 5 years, we cannot move forward with changes to discernment. Current commissions are not visionary bodies and are more hands-on out of necessity. The reality is recruiting people is a challenge. Community Life has 5 people, with 3 moving off this year. Stewardship has 5 with 2 moving off this year. People are not going to fill these slots without understanding the purpose of the meetings. We work hard to get an organizational chart and structure, and we do not want to lose that organizational structure. We have seen success with the focused model task force.

We should take the time in March, April, and part of May to do the visioning process. Once this is complete, it will dictate the structure and what are the commissions and task forces that are needed. We will abandon discernment in May and pick it up in August. The visioning meetings will be 3/17 and 3/24 from 6 to 9 p.m. Everyone here is invited to participate. Parish Council has to be the ultimate owners of this vision. Ideas that were thrown out were to have the leads from the ministries be the commission and then have the chair represent the commission. Bring the ministry leads as needed. Each commission is different. Look at structuring some of the commissions with expertise such as architect for operations, accountant or banker for Finance. Parish Council needs to hold the accountability for meeting the goals and objectives.

The purpose of each commission could evolve or change based on the task force or activities. Education could pull members from Faith Formation, School, Preschool, and Extended Day. Concern was raised that we will get the same people by pulling from the ministries for the commissions. We may be able to generate additional

interest by pulling people for a task force in shorter time frames of 3 to 6 months for example.

Recommended that we continue to meet through the summer. Another recommendation was the council be the umbrella over all and should focus on the vision and relate back to the commissions. This idea would allow us to do our job much more effectively as a parish council.

The idea of "Fit by 50" was represented to get our ministries fit to drive us past the 50-year mark. This could be a spring board for the visioning process, not just financially. The Parish Mission Statement is to manifest Christ to all. We need to identify a goal we can all reach for together.

The decision to have only the two meetings was to have focused sessions, and we may begin losing people with May. We will be carrying forward our mission and our prior goals and objectives and building on them, including what was discussed in September. The purpose of the September meeting was to bring the commissions together and working together and then determine the vision of the parish.

Volunteers for the visioning session were: Amy, Gail, Clyde (17th), Mary Beth (24th), Mike Kraft (24th), Alan (17th), Tim (24th). Goal is to determine a vision and goals to present to the Council next month.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: SEVEN MONTH REVIEW OF FY2009-2010

Budget for this fiscal year was set at a decreased value from previous years. We are hoping for consistent growth in giving for this parish. Historically we have not been in a situation where we have gone down. The audit report has grown so we now have year end projections. Mike and Jennifer are now able to review on a monthly basis to see if a category is going to go over or under so numbers can be moved. We are currently on pace for our surplus, but that does not include the back assessment to the Archdiocese. We are basically breaking even with our budget. We are currently \$24,921.23 under from last year's giving. February was not kind to us, and Easter is earlier this year, which leaves a longer stretch at the end of the fiscal year.

All departments are under budget through January. However, due to buy-out amounts and Cobra payments this will be challenged by end of year. Income levels are also low. Extended Day was low due to summer enrollment. We are breaking even, but we are a disaster away from financial issues. We have a roof that needs to be done this summer and boiler work that needs to be completed.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Finance – Alan Savage

Budget committee is working on the budget for 2010/2011 and has offered a recommendation that the April finance commission they will propose the budget. Reiser Foundation meeting is on Thursday evening. The commission supported the purchase of a truck for the cemetery.

Community Life – Emey Vaillancourt

Gary and Marie Schrank attended the meeting tonight to discuss the process for new members. The commission also worked on the 2010 calendar of events.

OPERATIONS – Mike Kraft

Discussed two major topics at the operations commission meeting. Reviewed the comments from the tours of the neighboring parishes. Also spent time talking about the role of the commission – should we exist and how we should exist. We have learned a lot about the commission and how the staff wants to use us.

LITURGY – Amy DeRaad

The commission met last week to plan for Holy Week and Easter.

STEWARDSHIP – Mary Beth Ineson

Discussed the theme for the next ministry booklet that we will be starting this spring. Visitors Tim Sullivan and Robert Breitbach attended our meeting to discuss the proposed capital campaign.

EDUCATION – Mary Zielinski

The commission followed-up on the parish mission. The group is looking forward to the next one. They spent the rest of the evening discussing the role of the commission and why we exist.

PASTORAL CARE AND OUTREACH – Steve Sorsen

This commission discussed the visioning as well.

NEW BUSINESS

Springfest – we do not represent ourselves well at Springfest. We need to change that to have a presence as a church, community, and school – who we are and why we are. This event is a great opportunity to share what we are as a community. This discussions will be added as an action item at our next council meeting. Any ideas that may come from the Springfest committee will be sent to Amy ahead of time. Steve is looking for the council to provide this communication. Comments

have been that outside it being on Church grounds, what other identifier is there that this is not a county fair but a Church.

Alan Savage, as a member of choir, requested a response from the Liturgy commission regarding a previously expressed concern, both personally and on behalf of the choir, relating to the effects and issues arising for the choir from the placement and use of incense during the Mass

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on April 13, 2010.

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