

Holy Trinity Church, Parish Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes: from February 22, 2017

In attendance: Father Kevin Gillespie, Cecilia Boudreau, Diane Oakley, Ellen Toups, Margaret Miller, Vince Dennis, Richard Podulka, Christopher Jolly Hale, Jim Thessin, Patrick Browne (via telephone).

Absent: Kirk Willison, Linda Arnold

Guest: Paula McCabe

Cecilia Boudreau led us in the opening prayer.

Cecilia gave the President's report in Kirk's absence. Ellen Toups was congratulated for the success of the Parish Pledge telethon. Ellen reported that \$1,975,000.00 was committed, which is below last year's amounts both in dollar volume and number of participants. Volunteers were willing, able and committed but more volunteers were needed. There is room for improvement here for future phonations with HTC development office and staff to assist.

Reaching out to new Parishioners. Need for volunteers to call new parishioners who have not come to any parish orientation. Encourage them to consider as well coming to one of the upcoming Parish Connections.

Father Gillespie reported on the recent visit of Father Quinnan, who has been going to parishes, seeing needs, and seeking out best ideas and practices to learn about and share with other parishes and Jesuit communities. He recommended that we consider possible links with St. Ignatius Loyola Parish in New York City. Father Gillespie asked how should we discern whom we should serve? Possibility make it part of an Advent prayer process?

Now is the time for the Parish Council to develop a vision statement that looks out for the next five years and addresses to whom we are called to serve and how we are called to do it.

HTC is restructuring their Development Office and Programs and looking forward to significant improvement with a new program planned. We will

be hiring additional development staff in several stages, including a consultant between now and September 2017 and a full-time person and an assistant after that. Soyna DeCarlo has been hired to see how reliable the data is that the Parish is using. She will also help identify a development consultant and a new development associate and an assistant.

Syrian family arrived last Thursday night at 11:30 PM.

Father expects to recommend that the Main Church be closed Summer 2019 for renovations.

Labor Day 2019 – Kick Off of new Capital Campaign coincident with Re-opening of the Main Church.

Our Syrian Family, the Cheikos, arrived last Thursday night at 11:30 PM and are staying in a AirBnb in McLean for two weeks, then moving into a house being renovated for them In Alexandria, VA. The family has 6 children in addition to the mother and father. Our programs have raised \$70K for them. We are committed to provide for them for 1 year. Father has a medical disability. Our parish is getting support from Jewish, Muslim and other faith communities to provide for the needs of this family.

Friday evening there will be a dedication of a room in the Spirituality Center in recognition of the generosity of Otto and Jeannie Ruesch.

The acting President presented the proposed changes in the by-laws.

The proposed amendments would make the following changes:

“The size of the council shall be set at 12 as of September 2017. Four members shall be elected annually for 3-year terms by a vote of parishioners. If it is necessary to increase the number of council members to reach 12, the pastor may, with the consent of the council, appoint a maximum of 2 parishioners a year to serve 1-year terms. Should an elected member be unable to serve the remainder of a term, that member shall be replaced by the highest vote-earning candidate not elected in the most recent election. If there are no such candidates, the pastor may, with the consent of the council, appoint a successor to serve the remainder of the term.”

“Beginning in September 2018, the Council's president emeritus shall continue to serve for one year in an ex-officio capacity.”

An extended discussion ensued. The first paragraph was accepted by consensus; the second paragraph, which would have created a President emeritus position, will not be included. The final vote on the first paragraph will take place in the next PPC meeting, a waiting period required by the PPC by-laws.

The Council also agreed to have members study the by-laws to identify provisions where changes are needed to conform them to current practices.

The Election of new PPC members:

The next Elections will be held in the late Spring 2017. Margaret Miller, Diane Oakley and Ellen Toups have agreed to serve as the Spring 2017 Elections Committee. Father would like to see a 10% increase in parish voter participation. Lisa has a list of about 70 committed volunteers involved in activities such as Parish Life, Social Justice and Ignatian Spirituality now. The committee might start with these names as possible candidates. Father Gillespie suggested that we look at parents of students who are leaving the school or the RE program. Discussion occurred about how to increase turnout, including ideas about socials, connecting voting with coffee hours, and better ways for candidates to become known to parishioners. No consensus was reached about whether candidates should be allowed to campaign. The election committee will come up with strategies for increasing participation and the number of qualified candidates and report on progress at March 15th PPC meeting.

Preparation for March 25 PAR meeting – Vision for Holy Trinity Parish Council over the next five years. Cecilia presented her vision of having the Council reconnect with the committees (e.g., the Social Justice Committee, the Worship Committee). The discussion followed focused on how the PPC should calibrate its involvement. Fr. Gillespie suggested that he looked to the Council for strategic advice, expecting us to more a Board of Directors rather than a group that does operational tasks such as putting on parties. How do we bring forward the constructive parts of the PAR process? All of these and other issues need to be addressed as we prepared for the March 25 PAR meeting.

Other Business. Richard Podulka gave us an update on the facilities. Ellen Toups brought to our attention the simple supper on the first Fridays of Lent to support both the Maria Madre de los Pobres and our sister parish in Haiti.

Jim Thessin led us in a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned.

Approved: April 19, 2017