

Holy Trinity Church, PPC
Meeting Minutes, March 15, 2017

In attendance: Father Kevin Gillespie, Cecilia Boudreau, Ellen Touns, Margaret Miller, Richard Podulka, Linda Arnold, Jim Thessin, Patrick Browne via telephone, with Paula McCabe attending as a public member.

Kirk led us in the opening prayer.

Kirk gave the President's report. He reminded members of the need to attend the March 25 meeting of the Parish Assessment and Renewal project. In anticipation of the meeting on the 25th, the Committees should begin drafting vision statements guided by the parish mission statement that set forth achievable results in the next year and goals over the next 5 years. 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.

In this regard, Father Quinnan is looking at the Jesuit parishes from Maine to Washington, DC, seeing needs, seeking out best ideas and practices to learn about and share with other parishes and Jesuit communities, and seeing how parishes can reach out beyond parish boundaries. Examples included St. Ignatius parish in the center city of Baltimore, which tried to help bridge the African American and white communities, and St. Ignatius in the Boston area. Fr. Quinnan also suggested that we consider pairing with similar Jesuit parishes, such as St. Ignatius Loyola Parish in New York City. Father Gillespie asked, for example, are we called to look for best practices where the Jesuits have multiple programs in the general area? The staff is considering how we could assess prayerfully all these and other ideas, possibility by making it part of an Advent prayer process, but remaining mindful of all the parish is already doing. Father Gillespie reiterated that the question is who are we called to serve and how.

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.

- One of the daughters in the refugee family visited dentists from one of the local Synagogues who had volunteered their services to help, a real interfaith cooperative effort.
- Parish's efforts in Haiti continue, although the destruction in Haiti from Hurricane Matthew destroyed many of the tree plantings that we had help finance.
- The convent building is still on the market; no one has expressed serious interest as of yet.
- Holy Rood cemetery. The Columbarium may be a reality in a year or so. The Parish would pay only for the Columbarium, which would be self-financing. The parish would need only to provide the initial capital cost that would be repaid. The parish will again have an Easter Saturday service at Holy Rood. The people of the parish buried in the cemetery symbolically and spiritually continue to be part of the parish community.
- The New York Times again wrote about Georgetown University's sale of slaves. The University intends to announce further initiatives including that it would fix up Holy Rood (the University would remain responsible for the cemetery's maintenance).
- We again gathered Pastors and Principals of 10 Jesuit schools, including Fr. Mark Horak.
- Marshall Ginn has been hired to be a development consultant (15 hrs. a month). He is helping to develop a development plan.

The President presented the proposed change in the by-laws for the second reading, as required by the by-laws. The Council voted to adopt the following change:

“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.”

The Council deferred discussion of by-laws where changes are needed to conform the provisions to current practices.

The Election of new PPC members:

The next Elections will be held in the late Spring 2017. Margaret Miller (chair), Diane Oakley and Ellen Toups have agreed to serve as the Spring 2017 Elections Committee. The election committee discussed strategies for increasing participation and the number of qualified candidates and report on progress at March 15th PPC meeting. The elections committee passed out a calendar for the recruitment and election process. Ideas were discussed, such as shortened questionnaires and voting during the time when a second collection is traditionally taken. Support was expressed for a variety of possible ways to vote, voting in church during Mass, on the web, or at the picnic. Council discussed whether the Worship Committee needed to approve using liturgy time for voting. The Council more generally had an extensive discussion of how the Parish might increase the number of people interested in serving on parish committees, including the Parish Council.

Richard Podulka led us in a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned.

Approved: April 19, 2017