



Holy Trinity Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)  
September 19, 2018  
PPC Meeting Minutes

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Present: Ellen Toups, President; Chris Hannigan, Vice President; C. Kevin Gillespie, SJ, Pastor; Kevin Barquintero; Tania Chomiak-Salvi; Richard Coll; Kathleen and Kevin Coogan; John Dolan; Jimmy Ervin; Kenny Kraft (by telephone); Carlos Salinas; and Jim Thessin.

Guests: Ben Hawley, SJ, Associate Pastor; Judith Bunnell, Parishioner; and Paula McCabe, Parishioner

Not Present: Sara DeCarlos

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PPC President Ellen Toups called the meeting to order.

Ellen Toups led the meeting in an opening prayer.

Two parishioners addressed the PPC during Parishioners' Open Forum

1. Discussing the ongoing clerical abuse scandal, Judith Bunnell emphasized the depth of crisis for the Catholic Church and expressed that Holy Trinity can be a model of transparency and active lay leadership for other parishes. She called upon the PPC to act prudently but quickly in addressing the concerns of parishioners.
2. Paula McCabe reminded the PPC that prayer has been a source of solace and healing during other times of crisis at Holy Trinity. She proposed that we gather regularly as a community to pray during this crisis.

The PPC tabled approval of the June 2018 minutes.

Ellen Toups and PPC Vice President Chris Hannigan provided an orientation for the 2018-2019 PPC year. Ellen Toups described the PPC's way of proceeding, including practicing Ignatian Presupposition, consensus-based decision-making, and each member's responsibility to bring the voices of all parishioners to the table. Chris Hannigan provided an overview of written materials that will inform PPC members' work throughout the year.

Ellen Toups discussed priorities for 2018-2019, including fulfilling the 2017-2018 PPC's July 9, 2018, letter of commitments to the pastor.

Fr. Kevin Gillespie delivered his Pastor's Report. He described his leadership philosophy and updated the PPC on: preparations for Camp Trinity (September 21-23); repairs to the East Garden/basement roof; legal negotiations and architectural designs for the columbarium at Holy Rood Cemetery, with a target dedication date of November 2019; the recent hiring of a new youth minister; the temporary

closure of the main church for repairs, scheduled to begin May 15, 2019; and upcoming anniversary celebrations, including a joint Holy Trinity Church and Holy Trinity School gala in March 2019.

The PPC held an open discussion about recent listening sessions about the clerical sexual abuse crisis, including those led by Voice of the Faithful on September 8-9 and a third session for Holy Trinity School parents on September 10. PPC members Jim Thessin and Carlos Salinas, who attended the September 8-9 sessions, described the sadness, distress, and widespread anger expressed by attendees. They also enumerated some of short- and long-term changes desired by those present, including the need for structural reform in the Church, full disclosure and transparency, equality for women in Church governance, expanded leadership by the laity, and calls for the PPC to lead on the issue of sexual abuse. Sustained, institutional support to survivors was a consistent theme across listening sessions.

Fr. Kevin Gillespie discussed steps that Holy Trinity has taken during a "Season of Discernment," including a prayer service following the public allegations against former Archbishop of Washington Theodore McCarrick, parish listening sessions and other dialogues organized by different ministries, and the formation of an ad hoc committee of pastoral associates, PPC members, and Holy Trinity School representatives who will organize Holy Trinity's response to this crisis. Fr. Gillespie expressed that communicating the volume and diversity of Holy Trinity's response is and will be a challenge, and he asked the PPC's assistance.

Fr. Ben Hawley oriented PPC members to the history of how the Church concentrated ecclesiastical authority in the bishops, and how this legacy and the subsequent empowerment of the laity at the Second Vatican Council inform the PPC's work today.

Multiple PPC members expressed the need to better publicize the membership and work of the Council so that parishioners can more easily petition their concerns and ideas.

The PPC agreed to meet in an extraordinary session on October 3, 2018 (6:30PM-8PM), to discuss upcoming activities, including the scheduled October Parish Leadership Night, in the context of the clerical sexual abuse crisis.

Ellen Toups led the meeting in a closing prayer and adjourned the meeting.