

## Holy Trinity Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2026

The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

**Attendance:** PPC President Malcolm McCluskey; PPC Vice President Frank Butler; Fr. Kevin Gillespie, Pastor; Judith Bunnell; Roly Diaz; Jim Hennessey; Rob Johansson; Colleen Kennedy; Eric Nicoll; Jacqui Pascal; Paul Ravenscroft; Pat Towell.

**The Opening Prayer** was offered by Judith Bunnell

**Welcome and Introductions:** Malcolm McCluskey convened the meeting and welcomed several parishioners and Holy Trinity staff joining the meeting.

**Parishioners Open Forum:** There was extensive discussion and dialogue regarding security and safety within the parish campus, with input from both PPC members and other parishioners. Places of worship throughout the country are vulnerable to potential acts of violence, a risk which may be amplified here due to Holy Trinity's high profile within the community. Members of the Council and parishioners discussed the strong desire to build on existing security for worshippers and participants at meetings and other events, while fostering a welcoming environment. Several specific options to enhance security were discussed. The parish senior staff have been engaged and are developing approaches to address these concerns. After extensive discussion it was unanimous among the PPC members that a high priority should be placed on the development of additional security plans and on implementing them as expeditiously as possible.

**Pastor's Report:** Father Gillespie provided the PPC with updates on several topics including:

- Cardinal McElroy participated in a March 18 panel at Georgetown University, *Faith, Democracy, and the Common Good*. Discussion included a focus on restorative justice.

- Holy Trinity's recent report on the role of women in the church (based on the January 24 synodal discussions) was provided to Cardinal McElroy.
- There will be an ecumenical service on Good Friday at Epiphany church in Georgetown.
- Fr. Gillespie and Ashley Klick, Pastoral Associate for Social Justice, continue active participation in the Immigration Committee meeting led by Cardinal McElroy and Catholic leaders across the archdiocese.
- Holy Trinity hosted a highly attended March 14 concert with The Thirteen choir, *Bach: The Early Masses II*.
- The Holy Trinity liturgy team hosted a special session March 15, *Preparing for a Catholic Funeral*. About 30 parishioners participated.

### **Committee Reports**

- The Facilities Committee, among other activities, is developing plans for the renovation of the rectory, creating the new Pope Francis Hall.
- Social Justice Committee has received funding proposals for the 2026 Tithe grants, in addition to many other ongoing initiatives.

### **President's Report**

- The PPC is preparing for annual elections in June. There will be three openings.
- The PPC continues its focus on synodality, and a recent article in *America* magazine was discussed, "Why the Jesuits are going all in on training Catholics for synodality". The article reports on a transcontinental project started by Arturo Sosa, S.J., the superior general. According to the article, "its aim is to form diocesan priests, women and men religious and lay people in countries across the globe to accompany the discernment processes in the synodal journey of local churches."
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### **Formation Moment**

Deacon Ed McCormack, Senior Coordinator for Ignatian Training Programs, led a presentation and discussion in furtherance of the PPC's focus on utilizing synodal practices and in promoting synodality across the parish. Deacon McCormack's

presentation focused on Ignatian discernment and God's desire for us, was titled *Fostering the Practice of Discernment as Our Way of Proceeding. Why Practice Discernment?*

**Old Business:**

- An update was provided on recommended revisions to the PPC bylaws, which were approved by the PPC last month. Judith Bunnell is working with parishioner Arlene Pietranton to incorporate the recommendations into revised bylaws for final approval and implementation.

**New Business:**

- Frank Butler strongly encouraged all PPC members to read the recently released Final Report of Group 5 of the Synod on Synodality, *The Participation of Women in The Life and Leadership of the Church*. This will be discussed at future PPC meetings.
- The next meeting will be held on March 18 at 7:00 p.m.

**The Closing Prayer** was offered by Jim Hennessey.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.