

Minutes of the Parish Council  
Thursday, March 15, 2018

(Members who were present are underlined)

<b>Pastor</b>	<u>Fr. Greg Miller, OSB</u>	<b>Elected Representatives:</b>	
<b>Trustees</b>	<u>Dean Merdan</u>	<b>8/15-8/18</b>	<u>Dan Backes</u>
	<u>Lori Fuchs</u>	<b>8/15-8/18</b>	<u>Elaine Omann</u>
<b>Chair</b>	Michaela Roske	<b>8/16-8/19</b>	Michaela Roske
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Vacancy	<b>8/16-8/19</b>	Joe Warner
<b>Past Chair</b>	<u>Dan Backes</u>	<b>8/17-8/20 II</b>	<u>Jason Mohs</u>
<b>Director, Faith Form.</b>	Alyssa Maty	<b>8/17-8/20</b>	<u>Joe Theisen</u>
<b>Secretary</b>	<u>Julie Ortloff</u>		
<b>Finance Council:</b> <u>Lori Fuchs</u>			
<b>Parish Life Committee</b>	<u>Heidi Peternell</u>	<b>Liturgy Committee</b>	Scott Wallner
<b>Faith Formation Comm</b>	Alyssa Maty	<b>Social Justice &amp; Ministry C</b>	<u>Michael Roske</u>

Guests: The Finance Council stayed for the beginning of this meeting to jointly discuss the “Planning for the Future” recommendation to the diocese and Diocesan Bankruptcy discussion.

This meeting began with a review of the information presented by the Diocese at the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Diocesan announcement that they will file Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. We reviewed and discussed the article published in The Visitor on March 9, 2018. Each parish was given the option to hire a single attorney to represent the parishes of the Diocese together. “It is possible that the reorganization [bankruptcy] process would allow each parish makes a financial contribution toward an overall settlement – whether it’s named in a current clergy abuse law suit or not – to be protected from any future liability tied to clergy sexual misconduct that occurred before the bankruptcy was filed.” -The Visitor Our pastor and trustees met, discussed and agreed to proceed and participate in the Joint Representation of Parishes of the Diocese of Saint Cloud, a \$500 initial fee (3-8-2018).

February 15, 2018 Council Minutes were not discussed or approved.

**Unfinished Business & Committee Reports:**

**Finance Committee:** The Finance Council met prior to the Parish Council, the parish investment advisor came and reviewed our investments. The council approved to have the investment policies reviewed annually, to move excess funds from the Building Fund checking account into the Building Investment account, and to redirect the priority of the Building Investment account to be socially responsible. Annual staff reviews will take place in March and budget planning for 2018-19 is in progress.

**Faith Formation Committee:** no report

**Social Justice:** The committee completed the Soup/Speaker series and is planning to promote Microfinance in the coming months.

**Parish Life:** Heidi reported on multiple upcoming social events within the parish.

**New Business:**

**Future Parish Planning:** The Diocese has asked parishes to make a recommendation for future parish planning to address the declining clergy numbers by April 15. Fr. Greg would like to establish a plan for him to continue as pastor of both parishes until his retirement, but with reduced administrative duties. He requests an additional staff position to manage administrative duties (check writing, funeral planning, attending meetings was discussed). With the addition of this staff member, Fr.

Greg would then be able to reduce his role to be Sacramental Minister and pastoral ministries only.

**ACTION: Julie was asked to publish the following statement as our parish recommendation:**

“The Diocese of Saint Cloud has requested that all parishes make a recommendation to the Diocesan Planning Committee concerning the future of their parish in light of the shortage of priests in our Diocese. In the coming years, it is expected that 56 priests will be presiding over 131 parishes in our Diocese. The Bishop and Diocesan Planning Committee are working to establish and implement a plan to sustain parishes before the retirement of Pastor Father Greg Miller in two and a half years.

Per discussion at the March 15, 2018 St. John the Baptist Parish Council meeting:

St. John the Baptist Parish of Collegeville’s Parish Council Recommendation to Bishop Donald Kettler:

The parish councils of St. John the Baptist Parish, Collegeville, and St. Benedict Parish, Avon, have discussed the recommendation that these two parishes remain twinned. In doing so, they are discussing the eventual addition, in two to three years, of an additional staff position to manage both parishes’ administrative needs, thereby allowing the pastor to concentrate his energies on pastoral care and sacramental ministries.

The Parish Councils welcome feedback from parishioners.”

Pastor Evaluation & Job Description: The council discussed the importance of having a job description for our pastor, especially in leu of the future parish planning which includes changes to administrative duties. The council recommends that the Personnel sub-committee establish a valid job description for the Pastor by May 1<sup>st</sup>. ACTION: Julie will contact the Personnel sub-committee wit this recommendation. The Parish Council will establish a sub-committee including the Trustees to work on establishing a method to evaluate the pastor. **ACTION: suggestions for this process and establishing a sub-committee will be added to the April meeting agenda.**

Vice Chair Appointment: The Vice Chairperson assumes the role of Chairperson during the following fiscal year. Tabled until the next meeting.

Implementing Barbara Sutton’s ideas: The January workshop was well received, and promising ideas were discussed, now we will need to implement the ideas. This discussion was tabled.

Adjournment: by Joe T.

Next meeting: April 19, 2018

**Date Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_