

ACC Minutes - October 14, 2025
7:00-8:30 pm at St. Stephen
Annunciation, Sacred Heart, St. Francis Xavier, St. Stephen
One in Christ -- Area Catholic Community

A. Welcome & Prayer (7:00-7:10)

- Intro of attendeeAttended:
 - Althea Heim (SFX), Lisa Koll (SS), Fr Ron Weyrens (SFX/SS), Fr. Tom Knoblach (SH/ANN), Jackie Popp (ANN), Will Hellmann (SS), Anita Montag (ANN), Shelly Pursley (SH), Dana Howard (ALL), Kurt Stelten (SFX), Chad Braegelmann (SFX), Don Burggraff (SFX), Adam Fasen (SFX), Todd Dembowski (SFX)
 - Not Present: Adam Vange (SFX), Jason Prigge (ALL), Jeanne Barnaby (SH), Anita Stoering (SH),
 - Visitors from St. Stephen Parish: Victor & Carole Michalek, Donna Vouk, Sue Legatt, Nancy Vouk, Clyde Dillenburg, Carol Hellmann, Chuck Spsychala, Betty Radke
 - Additional Visitors: Aaron Soderholm (Young Adult)

B. [08.12.2025 Minutes](#) Review & Approval (7:10-7:15)

- Approved by:Fr. Tom Knoblach
- Seconded by:Jackie Popp

C. Update on All Things New (7:15-7:55)

- Committees meeting tomorrow night, 10/15.
- Governance:
 - Keeping all 4 sites open
 - Essentially no governance changes as of now.
 - Goal is to maintain 2 priests; the Plan would change if we go down to only 1 priest.
- Cut down administrative burden on priests.
- Our ACC has a strong Young Adult ministry.
- Culture: Keep individualized culture at each of the parishes.
- Finance: Have a balanced budget.
- We are also reviewing our staffing and programming needs for gaps, efficiencies, and new opportunities
- Will have a second town hall meeting opportunity
- Goal is to issue our Plan to the Diocese in November 2025.
- The Plan will not be formally approved until Bishop receives Plans from all 29 ACCs
- Plans are due to the Diocese on 12/31/2025.
- All Plans will be posted on St Cloud Diocese website in Feb/Mar 2026 timeframe.
- Plans begin to be implemented on 7/1/2026.

D. Updates of Committee Work (7:55-8:10)

- Discipleship (Jackie Popp)
 - S.M.A.R.T. Goal: Expand parishioner involvement and understanding in Stewardship, by demonstrating stewardship gratitude for parishioners engaged in service ministries both in and beyond parish activities.

- Post 1st Event at SH, in gratitude of Ministerial Volunteers: More than expected, attended (32 people). All 4 OiC parishes represented, also not expected.
 - Blessing from participant comments: Several seeking to join a table of strangers, and the room conversation voicing a genuine thirst to know God more deeply.
 - Next event will at St Stephen, in gratitude for our Extraordinary Ministers, on 11/16/2025. Fr. Rom Weyrens as speaker.
 - Fr. Ron reminded that all are welcome to attend. Jackie encourages attendees to bring their entire family.
- Young Adult (Jason Prigge) - Aaron Soderholm presented in Jason's absence.
 - Committee meets on a quarterly basis.
 - At the 9/4/2025 meeting the group discussed the vision of this ministry.
 - Had an event at the St Cloud Newman Center. Approx 30-40 people attended.
 - Theology on Draft events were held at Beaver Island & Great River Bowl.
 - Upcoming events:
 - Oktoberfest at Sacred Heart
 - Trunk or Treat at Sacred Heart
 - Trying to tap into young adults with children.
- Worship (placeholder)
- Faith Formation (Kurt Stelten)
 - Faith on Tap: Oct. 4th @ Bad Habit Brewery

Denise Utter is a freelance consultant, writer, and a speaker. She's been coaching with Vibrant Faith since 2018. She has worked in ministry and education for 30 years. Denise loves to inspire ministry leaders to reimagine faith formation, put families at the center of faith, and provide innovative approaches to faith formation.

Denise was at the conclave and spoke how she could feel the Holy Spirit was present especially when the white smoke appeared. Now Denise along with her friend Lisa have been good friends of Fr. Bob and now Pope Leo XIV. The two spent time in the Vatican with Pope Leo and were able to see the room of tears, the popes' temporary quarters and the vestibules of past popes (he chose to wear Pope Leo XIII robe - weighing 22 lbs for his induction ceremony). Cardinal Bob was so inspired by Pope Leo XIII that led to his selection of Pope Leo XIV for his papal name (signifying a renewed emphasis on Catholic social teaching, labor rights, and human dignity). Denise spoke to many people at the conclave from around the world and said it was an enlightening, inspirational and surprising experience-an American Pope. No one there thought it was going to happen. The Italians initial reaction was what just happened but after Pope Leo made his appearance and spoke to the crowd all people became united under Pope Leo XIV. Denise challenged the group to think about hope: what brings you hope in today's world. What do you want the church to focus on going forward and what would you ask Pope Leo? During the Q & A many personal stories were shared by Denise and Lisa regarding their relationship with Pope Leo. Attendance was roughly 50 people with soups, snacks and candy served. Next Faith on Tap event is scheduled for March 28th
 - This was our 4th event:
 - Averaging 50 people per event / roughly 40 excluding staff.
 - Representation from each parish (includes staff).

- Each event has seen some new guests and one event had guests from outside our ACC community.
- Budget:
 - Since we started using Bad Habit, our rental fee has been \$322.88 per event.
 - The main course has generally been donated since the first event including items like soups or hot sandwiches.
 - Items like table favors, bread, chips, veggies, and paper products/plastic utensil generally spend between \$120.00 - \$175.00
 - Speaker fees have varied from \$150.00 to \$750.00. The \$750 was the latest event and \$200.00 was covered by the Sacred Heart Faith Formation program. Generally, local speakers are offered \$150.00
 - As of September 30th, the account has \$510.85. This does not include the latest event and an \$822.88 request from St. John's. I also think one of the parishes has not turned in their \$400.00 which may be added to the account from Living the Promise. (Sacred Heart, Annunciation, and St. Stephen have committed to shared the adult portion of Living the Promise to go toward Faith on Tap)
- Faith Formation Committee
 - September meeting had low attendance. Question came up as to the value or need to continue the committee
 - The committee is largely staff with limited involvement by volunteers. It doesn't make sense to have staff attend another meeting to report to a few volunteers on their progress. In Kurt's opinion the Faith Formation committee structure is backwards. It should have volunteers reporting to staff on what they have accomplished since last meeting.
 - Volunteers need a purpose (actionable items we are accountable for) with direction from staff on how we can assist them in reaching their objectives and goals for the ACC.
 - Our next committee meeting is in November (date TBD).
- Communications (Dana Howard)
 - ACC Newsletter was just mailed out.
 - Over 3000 people within the ACC can be reached via Flock Notes.

E. Pastoral Council Updates (8:10-8:20)

1. Annunciation (Fr Tom Knoblach)
 - Pastoral Council will be meeting on 10/21/2025
 - Review Annual Report
 - Safety & Security of their space especially the Faith Formation building
 - Finance Council approved \$20,000 of security improvements
 - Cemetery cross was destroyed due to a storm in July. Planning on replacing the cross in Spring 2026.
2. Sacred Heart (Fr Tom Knoblach)
 - Considering a capital campaign for maintenance and upgrades as site ages
 - Report on Mass of Suicide Healing and Remembrance

- Safety & Security of their space.
- 3. St. Francis Xavier (Fr Ron Weyrens)
 - Meeting coming up in a couple of weeks
 - Talking about safety especially with the school on the premises.
 - Parish getting assessed approximately \$175,000 due to the road construction. Working on trying to get this assessment lowered.
- 4. St. Stephen (Fr Ron Weyrens)
 - \$88,000 profit on parish festival
 - Looking at HVAC system
 - Replacing boiler
 - New Trustee: Tom Vouk
 - Encountered pests in the rectory building
 - Discussed how the church impacts the world today.
 - Talked about mass times. Preferred time is 9am on Sunday.
 - Choir is doing a fundraiser. Currently in the process of recording their music.

F. Misc. (8:20-8:30)

1. Review accuracy of [2025 ACC Council Member List](#)
 - Replacements for:
 - Dianne Blonigen (St Stephen) – Is Will Hellmann filling this position? Yes
 - Bonnie Dick (note taker) - replacement for this position. Don Burggraff offered to start taking notes at our next meeting on 12/9/2025.
2. [Minutes Contacts](#) review listing for accuracy
 - Provided a copy to Fr. Tom Knoblach & Fr. Ron Weyrens asking them to review the Contact Listing for accuracy.
3. St Stephen's Homily (Sunday 10/5/2025)
 - There were some parishioners that were concerned about a homily that was delivered at St Stephen on Sunday, 10/5/2025. Fr. Tom Knoblach said the Bishop has received correspondence relating to this homily. In addition Fr. Tom encouraged parishioners to write to the Bishop about their concerns. Lastly Fr. Tom offered to stay after the meeting if anyone wanted to talk to him in person.
4. Next Meeting Tuesday, December 9th, at Annunciation

F. Closing [Prayer](#) (8:30)

Opening Prayer

O God of Life,
we seek your guidance
as we face the reality
of transition and change.

Transition is a challenge and can be exciting
as we try to move with foresight into the future.

Change is a challenge to let go.
It takes courage and confidence to move toward a new goal.

Loving God,
give us open minds, kind hearts and clear vision
as together we look to a future in which we can still serve You.
Help us to plan with a “big picture” mentality
to seek diligently and generously
what is in the best interest of all.

May Jesus, our Shepherd and Guide,
lead us in ways that are right and good.

May Mary, Mother of our Church,
encourage our efforts
to listen and learn.

In the words of the prophet Micah,
may we “act justly, love tenderly
and walk humbly with our God.”

Amen.

Closing Prayer

O Spirit of God,
we ask you to help orient all our actions
by your inspirations,
carry them on by your gracious assistance,
that every prayer and work of ours
may always begin from you
and through you be happily ended.

Amen.