

ACC Minutes – May 10, 2022
7:00 pm, Meeting at St. Stephen Parish Hall
Annunciation, Sacred Heart, St. Francis Xavier, St. Stephen
One in Christ – – Area Catholic Community

In attendance: Fr. Ron Weyrens, Joan Krause (SH), Shirley Scapanski (Ann), Candice Koopmeiners (SFX), Leonard Popp, Dianne Blonigen, Dcn. Joe Kresky, Chuck Woken
There were a number of Parish Council members from St. Stephen in attendance
Shirley began the meeting at 7:00 pm

A. Welcome & [Prayer](#)

B. 4/5/22 Minutes-Review & Approval

Minutes were reviewed.

It was suggested, by Stef, to have the minutes available on the website. This will allow people to read if they feel inclined to do so,

Joan made a motion to approve the minutes. Candice seconded the motion. Motion carried.

C. Update of Committee Work

1. **Discipleship Committee - Joan** - Continuing to work on a goal which states we will increase outreach efforts and strengthen existing relationships within the community in five areas. Things discussed are how to grow and improve relationships within our parishes and the ACC. We are fine tuning and should be ready by the next meeting.
 - a. Areas we are looking at include: How do we accompany others in their journey of faith.
 - b. Follow-up with those who recently received the sacraments. Also with those who had a death within the parish. New Parishioners. Those who have may have worked at an event - did they feel connected to the parish
 - c. Expand understanding of Stewardship and Evangelization through ongoing education through the bulletin and posters that will change weekly.
 - d. Engage with area churches of other faiths to help build the Body of Christ by doing things together such as celebrations or service projects, etc.
 - e. Be a disciple to engage, learn and share stories (more of that to come)
 - f. To better engage those within our community of faith. To increase from disengaged to engaged parishioners. Such as listening sessions. There are two Synod sessions scheduled for next week. In Sartell and Sauk Rapids. We are looking at using a similar process to invite the disengaged to attend.

2. **Young Adult** - Shirley shared notes from Jason Prigge. Highlights that were shared are:
 - a. Theology on Draft will wrap up this Thursday at El Loro from 6-8 pm with Brenda Kreske. There should be a large gathering,

- b. Young Adult Team - Waiting on the budget approval. Discussed challenges of reaching the young adults that are married with children. Looking at teams to rotate to various parishes.
- c. Summer Events are being planned,
 - i. Bible Studies - 1st Thursday of each month
 - ii. Social Outing - May 14 TopGolf/Milk and Honey
 - iii. Social Outing - St. Cloud Rox Game June 3
 - iv. Social Gathering - Bean Bag Tournament at Annunciation July 8
 - v. Service/Social - Feed my Starving Children & WhirlyBall August 19
 - vi. Mass and a Meal - Last Saturday of each month rotating between SFX & SH
- d. Wrote cards (for an hour) to new members across the four parishes within included Jason's contact information and a QR Code. Proved successful. A member from SS Joined the group last month. Others to join soon.
- e. Updated Webpage - Young adult ministry is now on the combined website. There is a QR code with a logo which directs people to the webpage. Magnets have been ordered to share. Let Jason know if your parish would like some for their gathering area.
- f. Areas of Support. Two areas of support needed are
 - i. Financing. We would like to know if the budget has been approved
 - ii. On the weekends that we go to various parishes, we need to know who to contact for connections if things are needed. SS contact is Liz Legatt.

Joe - We have a Young Adult committee, however, this may be something that could be sunsetted. The goal to hire a Young Adult Minister has been accomplished. Young Adults from each parish would meet with Jason to be sure to include all parishes. We can all support Jason, by helping get leaders in each parish on the leadership team. We need voices from all the parishes.

Financial help is needed - At this time, SH & SFX have been dealing with the expenses. The request has been put in the budget and has been approved. **Fr. Ron and Fr. Tom** will address the cost for the other parishes. Details will be worked out with the other parishes. **Joe** will communicate to Jason that the budget that was requested has been approved.

3. **Worship Committee: Leonard** - a group met informally to work on the Easter Schedules. We hope to meet before the end of May. A prior goal was set to establish a plan for Sunday celebrations in the absence of a priest. Some things are in the works. Establish lay ministers within each parish who would be the person to lead such a service. The other issue is how do we notify the parishioners if this should happen. That may be the first activity of the committee to address. Each Parish may need to address this for their parish and figure out what works best for their parish. The Worship Committee's vision and goals may be that this group would look at Mass Times. They would also look at opportunities for prayers and devotion outside of Mass times.
4. **Communication Committee: Fr. Ron** reported there is nothing overly new. Still exploring if we can use the existing staff with rearranging of tasks, such as Tom taking over the role of

Business Manager for SFX and SH and Dana would be in charge of communications for all parishes. If that does not work, we may have to look at hiring someone for the position.

Joan - Stated that Dana has been working to help with communication between the parishes with posters for the parish, announcements on the screens, bulletin announcements, etc. Communication needs to be the same message at the same time so all are informed and are not finding out until after the fact.

Fr. Ron shared that they are looking at having one publisher for the bulletin. This should eliminate late bulletins for Sunday Mass. We are hoping that we can have the publisher that St. Francis is currently using. The service is much better and the delivery is on time.

5. **June 4th Joint Council Formation Day** - Will anyone be attending? If you wish to attend, please register online. Dianne, Joan, and possibly Candice are planning to attend. This will be an opportunity to find out what other ACC's are doing. New members will be needed so this too would be an opportunity for anyone who may be considering membership to this committee. This was addressed to the visitors that were in attendance. They were invited to talk to their priest about this.

D. Parish Council Updates

1. **St. Francis Xavier - Fr. Ron** - This is the only parish that had a meeting. I am not sure at this time if anyone has expressed interest in being a member of the ACC because over the past week, we have been looking for people to serve on the various councils within our own parish; Parish Council, School Advisory Committee, Faith Formation, etc. Names have been submitted from parish members who nominated either themselves or others they thought may be a good person for the committee. On May 26 there will be a discernment process for those who were nominated.
We reviewed our committee reports internally. Talked about the roof project. The Mission that will be happening in October and the Synod process, inviting people to attend. We will meet again on May 24.
2. **Sacred Heart** - no report - will meet on June 21
3. **St. Stephen** - no report - will meet May 17 - Leonard will Attend their Meeting
4. **Annunciation**- no report - will meet May 17 - Dianne will attend their meeting
5. **Committee Commitments to May 17th Meeting** - **Joan** explained that there was some discussion about ACC council members attending your Pastoral Council meetings more as an opportunity to sit in and see what's going on and answer questions the PC may have for the ACC or things they would like to see us working on. Joan suggested that this be done on an annual basis possibly. She also suggested that the ACC consider meeting every other month instead of every six weeks. This is because of the amount of committee work that is needed outside of the council meeting. Our by-laws state there should be a PC member from each parish on the ACC committee for communication purposes. This would help so there are less "meetings" to attend. I would ask if it is possible to spread out the ACC meeting even a little further? Leonard plans to attend the SS Parish Council Meeting next week at 7:00 pm. Joe asked if the ACC member is to give a report if they attend the PC meeting or do they just sit and listen? It may be good to give a brief report because that may help to generate questions. It will help so people know what kind of questions they should ask. Joan mentioned that this is a good way for the ACC and PC to work together. If the

ACC lets them know what goals have been met, the PC may say, it's a good idea OR no, we aren't on board with that OR if they are not on board with it, how can we work together. It's a great communication piece if nothing else. It is also a great way to see how other PC's work.

E. Q & A/Listening Session

- **Concern about continuing Mass on TV.** This is a difficult issue. For those who are homebound, this may be the only way they can feel connected to the parish. For those who may be able to come to church but choose to watch it on TV for convenience or for whatever reason, those are the ones we have to continue to invite and encourage them and invite them back to church. The Synod is one of the ways to help get people back. It's the young adults that are our future. As a church, as a council, how do we encourage and support that younger group of people to get together. They have so much on their plate. How do we help bring their lives in focus and encourage them to come back to the church and help them see that this is what they need. Supporting Jason can help.
- **Do the other parishes have Parish Festivals?** - SH will have their festival on August 28. St. Stephen will have their festival on Labor Day, SFX will have their festival on Saturday, September 17, Annunciation has more of a parish picnic. The ACC council talked about if it would be possible to help each other out by having people for the other parishes volunteer at other parish festivals. This would be another way to build relationships.
- **Could we get the youth to volunteer at the festivals?** Jason is the youth minister at SH and the young adult minister for all four parishes. Maybe he can reach out to the young adults and each parish should reach out to their youth as well. It may be possible to get people to help but they may not want to be a chairperson or the main leader of an area. Unfortunately, there are some parishes that no longer require service hours for those preparing for confirmation. That was one way we had more help in the past. We need to encourage families to take on the role to help to bring their kids and do this as a family. Not just SEND their kids to help but to do that together. It doesn't have to be just Jason or other youth leaders asking kids to help. We would hope that the youth have done enough service projects that they enjoyed doing and that they would continue to do things, but that is not always the case.
- **A visitor shared** with the committee that they felt this was a very informative gathering. They found out at least four things that they had not known anything about. It's nice to be able to just attend and listen.
Joan commented that it is a way to continue to have conversation at your meetings and to share with representatives to bring back to us. That is what we want. We need back and forth communication.

F. Misc:

1. **The Mission** - Tom Offerdahl will be working on getting out Save the Date Cards for the event. This Mission seems to be a little different from past Missions. They seem to do more closer to the date. Sunday & Monday, October 2 & 3.
2. **Fr. Ron - Rural Life Celebration in St. Stephen** - Father received a letter from Kateri Mancini, the Social Justice Coordinator for Catholic Charities. Under her charge is the Rural Life Celebrations. Every August, on a farm, somewhere in the diocese, this event takes place. There is an ACC from another area who is discerning if they would be able to host the

event in their area. If that ACC moves forward, they will find a farm or site in their area and this will be a mute point this year.

As they were talking to a family about this event, the Schefers family from St. Stephen said they would be willing to host the event if needed. They have asked if the OiC ACC would be willing to help coordinate that. We would need to set the theme, volunteers for meal prep, Mass would be on site, parking, finding a speaker. August 14, 2022.

The Question was asked of members of the St. Stephen Parish Council - What are your thoughts about hosting the event this year? They shared that the St. Stephen Parish had been asked to host this about 5-6 years ago. However, at that time, they did not feel they could get enough help to prepare the grounds, enough volunteers to help with all that is needed for the event. If all four ACC parishes can get behind this, it may be possible. If there is any way that we could have an entire year to work on making this happen, it could possibly happen.

Father was asked, When do we need to have an answer? By next week.

Could Father let Kateri know that we would be willing to be considered, however, we would not be able to do it this year. There seems to be excitement for this to happen. If we can coordinate it with the Schefer family, we want to consider it for next year.

3. **Building Community with the ACC** - has been discussed.

G. Closing - Discussed a change of when meetings will be taking place. It was decided that we would meet every other month. It was also suggested that we consider setting a date like the 2nd Tuesday of every other month. However, that was not finalized.

Next Meeting at Annunciation

7:00 pm August 9, 2022.

Meeting ended with prayer at 8:35 pm

Notes submitted by: Aggie Schulte

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