

**ACC Minutes - April 5, 2022**  
**7:00 pm, Meeting at SFX -Xavier Hall**  
**Annunciation, Sacred Heart, St. Francis Xavier, St. Stephen**  
**One in Christ -- Area Catholic Community**

In attendance: Fr. Ron Weyrens, Stef Rothstein (SS), Joan Krause (SH), Candice Koopmeiners (SFX), Tom Offerdahl (SFX), Visitor Chuck Spychala

**A. Welcome & [Prayer](#)**

**B. 2/22/2022 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.

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

**C. Update of Committee Work**

**First Inventory of OiC ACC Members and Committees**

**Stef** - At the end of this year, we will have a number of people who will be leaving this committee. We need to start looking at ways to attract people to join the committee, not in a forceful way, but to invite parishioners to come forward to share the gifts given to them so we can continue to branch out. People do want connection across the 4 parishes. They have wants, but we need more people to help make this happen. Since Covid, it's taking time for people to even get back to church - to feel safe in going back into the spaces and to re-establish the relationships again.

**Tom** - We need to continue to be welcoming. There are those who have always been here and then there are those who are just feeling comfortable enough to start coming back. In a way, we are starting over again in the area of encouraging and welcoming those that have been coming regularly and those who may have been away for a while and then those who haven't been coming at all.

**Joan** - There are those who will come back for Baptism, First Communion, and maybe Confirmation. This is where evangelization comes into play. Some people don't really have an answer as to why they come to receive these sacraments other than "that's what we do".

**Tom** - Parishes inviting and encouraging people to attend and get involved. This needs to continue. . . When others see this, hopefully they will want more. It would be nice to see more people attending weekend Mass, but we need to let them take it when they are ready.

**Fr. Ron** - Live streaming is wonderful but it may be scaled back at some point.

**Tom** - There are those who really want to be able to see and hear their parish priest and to even see some of the parishioners. They could watch another Mass, but it is not the same. It is one way they can still feel connected. The homebound really like what we are doing.

**Joan** - If people do not understand the importance of actually receiving the Eucharist, that may be why they are not feeling they "need" to actually attend Mass.

Regarding adding new members to the ACC Council:

**Tom** - Discernment has been used at St. Francis. It is not a vote for people. People are recommended to attend an evening of information regarding the committees and then they decide if they are willing to commit. Their name is included and "drawn" based on the number of openings there may be. It may be time to open this up to the OIC Committee as well.

**Joan** - Sacred Heart does this in a very similar way. It is a challenge to get one from the Parish Council to actively sit on the ACC council. Maybe it's because they may have to attend another meeting?

**Tom** - We may need to explain when and how often we actually meet. Maybe ACC members could consider meeting at the time that a council meeting meets to listen and observe. Or invite the trustees to attend our meetings.

**Stef** - And invite, in a way, that they understand that we really want them here. It may also be good if this committee could attend the other parish meetings. Not sure how we can make this happen, but it is worth looking into.

**Let's all give this thought and consideration for future discussions.**

**Let's continue to look ahead and think of ways where we can invite others to become involved with this committee.**

**Suggestion - that information be included in the community section of the bulletin, explaining how often we meet, how long the meetings last, explain that they may be asked to serve on a sub-committee, how long a term is, etc. We need to advertise with a brief job description. We also need to start getting information out to the people as soon as possible.**

**Joan agreed to get something ready for the Easter bulletin.**

1. **Discipleship Committee - Joan** - There are a few members who have decided not to continue on this committee. Currently, we have 5 ACC committee members. We only need one person from the ACC committee on the Discipleship committee. Maybe some could consider changing to a different committee. We are working on a SMART goal and trying to define that more. Specifically for the measurement part of it. The statement states the OIC ACC will increase its outreach efforts and strengthen existing relationships within the community and the four areas outlined in the plan by June of 2024. They are focusing on the following areas: inactive parishioners, being a disciple, connecting with the area churches, faith formation like stewardship and evangelization. We hope to get that done in the next month or two. The Mission - we have 3-4 people on the committee to work on the Mission that is scheduled for October. We will start working on that more after Easter. We are continuing the bulletin piece. It will be some stewardship, some evangelization. The Bishop has asked all the ACC's to work on a Synod listening session. Three will start to work on this soon. A suggestion was made that we do something off-site. This may be more inviting to people who may be distanced from the church. After Easter, Joe, Tom and Joan will be meeting to set dates and try to get the word out. We need to do something by the end of May so results can be returned to the Diocese by August. The Bishop has sent out guidelines that we will be working with.
2. **Young Adult Committee:** The question was asked - Do we really need a committee within this Committee? Jason seems to be handling this quite well. We wanted him to let us know if we can help in any way. Jason seemed very open to report to this committee what is happening whenever we wanted to hear from him to keep us updated. He will be added to

the contact list in case he wants to send anything our way to let us know what he might be working on.

3. **Worship Committee: Leonard** was unable to attend but did send a message saying there was no progress on or from the committee. He plans to gather together those who helped plan the Holy Week Services as well as several who have expressed interest in becoming members after Easter.
4. **Communications Committee:** Fr. Rom - We have talked about hiring a Communications person. Fr. Ron, Fr. Tom, Tom and Dana have met and they are looking at what can happen with some job duty responsibilities and changes. There is a job description from Mark Kuhl to start with. We are working on that and refining details. They are looking at July 1 as a possible start date for this position.

#### **D. Parish Council Updates**

**Annunciation** - No report at this time. May 17th is the next meeting.

**Sacred Heart** - No report at this time. June 26th is the next meeting.

**St. Francis Xavier** - Council did look at the two questions:

#1 What are you seeing as positive outcomes of our OiC Area Communities? What do you see as challenges for our OiCACC and what are some possible solutions?

#2 What questions or concerns do you have for the Planning Council? What is an area you would suggest the Planning Council explore?

**Fr. Ron shared comments from St. Francis** - #1 we need a more unified message within OiC. They perceive us in our own little silos. They talk about being together but we really aren't. Moving very slowly. Mark Kuhl suggested having a communications person for consistent messaging. He did suggest hiring from the outside because they can come in with a fresh look. They were suggesting having an outdoor Mass somewhere for the entire OiC. For the Planning Committee they suggested more events where the mixing of the parishes could take place. Create opportunities for people to share personal stories/witness the benefits of OiC or how they have been enriched by this unity. Maybe monthly or quarterly. Maybe check with the youth to see if they have ideas.

**Tom:** We should share our story. OiC needs to share their story as well. There are lots of things happening but not all stories are being told. There is progress being made in Faith Formation, Youth ministry, and VBS. They are collaborating. Someone from St. Stephen called our health ministry and asked for some help to get things started. We don't print everything in the bulletin or tell everything that is happening.

**Candice** - Continue to advertise each other's parish events. Encourage people to attend

**Tom** - Easter may be a great time to meet others. With a number of the service times available, people may choose to go to a different parish. Would like to clarify; if a church envelope from another parish is dropped in our collection basket, it is forwarded on to that parish. So things like that happen without a lot of advertising about it. However this could be put in the bulletin as well. With more people attending Easter services, a much larger number of bulletins will be printed and hopefully we will be able to reach out to more people.

**Fr. Ron shared comments from St. Stephen** - Question #1 They had the same questions. Positives were sharing resources, especially staff, priests. Collaborations with youth and young adults. Sharing talents and skills among parishioners. Challenges were Large parishes vs Small

parishes. They can sometimes feel left out. Make sure events also happen at SS and ML. Find more volunteers. Question #2 How to create more involvement goes back to volunteers. They also mentioned more mixers. They would like job descriptions for this council and for the committees of this council.

**Chuck** shared that the things will take time. But one thing that will be happening this Easter is that the St. Stephen choir and SFX choir will be together for the Easter vigil service. The St. Stephen Vibrancy Committee will be bringing over and helping serve refreshments after the Easter Services.

**Joan** commented that the larger parishes can help. They can't do it for them but they can certainly share resources to get them started.

**Tom** mentioned that posters from the other parishes should be posted at the entrances and shared so that people see what opportunities are available. It never hurts to find other avenues to advertise about upcoming events.

**Stef:** there are people who are coming forward and are interested in things but are unsure how to go about getting started. Maybe we can invite them to share in the bulletin or on the websites.

#### **Misc**

**Mission:** Discussed above

**Synod Efforts:** Discussed above

**Action Steps** - Set our next meeting. Find out when the next Pastoral Council Meetings for all the parishes will be happening so we can get them on our calendars and to make an effort to attend as many as possible and personally invite them to come to our meeting.

SFX PC Meeting - Thursday, April 28, 6:30 pm in Xavier Hall

We will extend an invitation to the St. Stephen PC for them to attend our meeting on the 10th.

**Clarify - An invitation will be sent to Jason to attend or simply give a report of what is happening with youth and young adults**

**An invitation will also be sent to St. Stephen PC to join us at our May 10th meeting.**

**Because Stef is not available to attend the next meeting, we will ask Shirley to set an agenda and be sure she can facilitate and attend the meeting that night.**

**Joan will get Stef dates for Annunciation and Sacred Heart.**

**For future agenda - Schedule a mixing event of some sort. Mass or social event.**

**Joan will work on the job description for the Easter bulletin.**

Motion made to adjourn meeting by Candice. Seconded by Tom.

Meeting adjourned 8:12 pm

Next meeting: **Tuesday, May 10, 2022** 7:00 pm

St. Stephen Parish

Notes submitted by: Aggie Schulte