

**ACC Minutes – February 13, 2024**  
**7:00–8:30 pm at Sacred Heart**  
**Annunciation, Sacred Heart, St. Francis Xavier, St. Stephen**  
**One in Christ -- Area Catholic Community**

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

1. Intro of attendees
  - Attended: Fr. Tom Knoblach (SH/ANN), Fr. Ron Weyrens (SFX/SS), Chuck Wocken (ANN), Shelly Pursley (SH), Dana Howard (ALL), Jackie Popp (ANN), Bonnie Dick (Notetaker SH), Althea Heim (SFX), Lisa Koll (SS), Kurt Stelten (SFX), Jason Prigge (ALL)
  - Not Present: Tom Offerdahl (SFX), Chad Braegelmann (SFX), Diane Blonigen (SS)
  - Visitors: Vicki Welty (Pastoral Council Trustee SH), Alex Kramer (Volunteer Youth), Ginny Gammell (Pastoral Council SH)

B. [12.05.2023 Minutes](#) Review & Approval (7:10-7:15)

- Chuck Wocken approved
- Kurt Stelten Second it

C. [ACC Council Members List](#) (7:15-7:30)

1. Review [Amended By-Laws](#) (Fr Tom Knoblach, Kurt Stelton & Shelly Pursley to report proposed changes)
  - Language was changed in the by-laws. See updated version from Shelly and reviewed again by ACC council at the next meeting.
  - By-Law 12 title was changed to “Communication”
  - Shelly asked:” Do we have to keep members even from each parish?”. Father Tom stated we may have developed unity of purpose in the ACC that no longer requires even representation if willing members would be difficult to find.
2. Joan Krause’s replacement is Jeanne Barnaby (SH). Additionally, since Jeanne’s acceptance, Anita Stoering has volunteered to join the Council. All agreed that we would welcome her in addition to Jeanne from SH.
3. Vice-Chairperson position (effective 1/1/2024)
  - Kurt Stelten volunteered for the Vice Chair Position. All voted based on by-laws and he was chosen.

D. Updates of Committee Work (7:30-7:50)

1. Discipleship (Jackie Popp)

- Need help looking for 1 or 2 people from St. Francis, 1 from Sacred Heart and 1 from Annunciation.
- Any suggestions or direction for 2024-2026 SMART goals.
- Working on Closing out the plan on July 1st and thinking about a new plan.

## 2. Young Adult (Jason Prigge)

- Theology on Draft. New series on Bible Study. Many new faces. Full capacity at Green Mill - great attendance. There were 50+ people. Many wonderful little stories and moments shared on how it fits into discipleship.
- Cindy Gonzales from St. Ben's Topic: Going into the unknown, where is God calling to us. Many great conversations on these topics.
- Topic for next time is the 5 love languages by Kelly Kleinschnitz.
- Needs Assessment Comments below
  1. Stay at home moms are looking for more staff to help with children so they can attend. Ideas to supply daycare or to bring children with.
  2. Set a group for ages 30-39 and do follow up bible study so they can dive deeper into material.
  3. Opinions on the spectrum of the views within the Church regarding no girl servers to LGBTQ, to all men clergy.
  4. Looking for positive worship experiences.
  5. Missing young adults attending and how to get them involved.
  6. Many love the connections to the priests.
  7. 60 responses were made on the assessments and people were direct and honest.
- Jason Prigge wondering how to get commitments from the youth. Father Tom thinks it has been difficult in this virtual age. Maybe find a place that's comfortable.
- Next young adult plans are breakfast at Sacred Heart and working with faith formation and life skills.
- Submitting a new budget in February.

## 3. Worship (Diane Blonigen)

- Was not present to report but Father Ron stated that nothing has transpired to note.

## 4. Faith Formation (Kurt Stelten)

### a. [Faith Formation Goals](#)

- Kurt met a few weeks ago on Smart Goals which were looking at what faith formation events would look like and the number of events. They decided they needed to start a sub-committee to help plan. October 5th was picked as a date to put on a faith formation event.
- October 5th event could be held at a neutral site that could be a place that could hold a comedy event on the faith or a speaker.
- The goal is to gather and feel relaxed and comfortable to break down the barriers and bring us together. Possibly provide appetizers.
- It is important as volunteers to talk to people and ask what they would like to see happen so they can gather information and get some good ideas.

### b. Faith Formation Young Life Pilot Chapter

- Staff met at St. Francis and talked about outreach ministry. The need to enhance what we do and reach out externally.
- Bishop Patrick addressed topics of reaching out to the middle schools, finding core adults who want to evangelize. Also to create a 1-2 minute video with a vision for this and share it with all parishes.
- Need to be ready to lead this but to move slowly.
- Not all Young Life attendees are Catholic but it is based on the Gospel.

5. Communications (Dana Howard)

- Letter was sent in the mail and emails sent out on all of the parish masses and events.

E. Pastoral Council Updates (7:50-8:05)

1. Annunciation

- Meeting scheduled for February 20th.

2. Sacred Heart.

- January 16th meeting started with Faith Sharing and then sharing the Bishop's Pastoral letter.
- Pictorial Directories
- Discussed "Walking with Moms in Need"
- Discussed visit with the Bishop
- Meeting again on April 16th

3. St. Francis Xavier

- Did not meet but many of the same topics as Sacred Heart such as praying for others in another parish, building repairs, kitchen upgrades, and future roofing.
- Father Ron talked about an Old Convoy of military traveling on October 5th and stopping at St. Stephen around 9 a.m. to get refreshed and refueled. Idea of providing breakfast, rolls, etc.
- Event for decorating eggs before Easter

4. St. Stephen

- No report

G. Misc. (8:05-8:30)

1. Update on [Pastoral Visit](#) with Bishop Neary on December 20th

- Discussed the experience of the ACC's that came together for the Bishop's visit.
- Shelly thought it was very interesting as each presentation was different. One group did a skit and another group just did an oral presentation.
- After presentation the groups did a "table talk" to gain different ideas
- Jackie Popp mentioned that the Bishop had no hidden plans but just wanted to listen and learn.
- The Bishop enjoyed it and he is going to spend 1 day a month hearing presentations from other ACC councils. All presentations will end around June and then Bishop Neary will look at moving forward at what the church will look like using the information he gained as a guide for making future decisions.
- Grassroots groups are more enduring than the top down.

2. Eucharistic Revival Ideas (Father Tom Knoblach)

- Miracles Display had about 240 attendees during 3 days. Many people from all over came.
- Banquet of Love is an online course for couples in which the Bishop purchased the license so all parishes have free access for a year.
- Cana Dinner to be held at Sacred Heart.
- Flag cases were made to give to families at military funerals. Cases will be stored at Sacred Heart. Glass and wood was donated.
- Teaching mass at Sacred Heart and then at Mayhew lake church on March 6th. The goal is to tie in the teachings to the Bishop's letter.

3. Walking with Moms in Need (Ginny Gammell)

- Needing Parishes to participate in "Walking with Mom's in Need" to help ensure they have access to pregnancy resources.
- Make resources and information easily and readily available for them by getting brochures or contacts in plain sight so they can access them.
- How do we spread the word on this program? Have one person from each parish as a contact or have someone travel from parish to parish as a resource.
- Need to educate what this program is about. Priests talk about it at mass.
- Need to open this up to all parishes to reach as many as possible.
- Father Tom stated that one person from each parish is needed but Ginny Gammell would be a higher resource.
- Jason stated that if we do an information table at church then the pastoral council needs to be communicated with on that so they are aware of the mission and volunteers who will be manning the table.
- Father Tom stated that showing a 3 minute video of this initiative and how it has helped individuals who have used it will bring it to the attention of members in the church.
- Idea to put these resources in the directory on mental health, pregnancy, ect..

4. Review [Minutes Contacts Listing](#) for accuracy

- a. Undeliverable emails:
- We need to make changes on additions and terminations on the live document.
  - Put on the list the individuals that want the ACC minutes.

5. Next Meeting Tuesday, April 9th at St. Francis Xavier

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

Minutes submitted by Bonnie Dick

### **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.