

ACC Minutes - June 6, 2023
7:00-8:30pm at Sacred Heart
Annunciation, Sacred Heart, St. Francis Xavier, St. Stephen
One in Christ -- Area Catholic Community

A. Welcome & [Prayer](#)

- Attended: Tom Offerdahl (SFX), Fr. Ron Weyrens (SFX/SS), Dianne Blonigen (SS), Shelly Pursley (SH), Chuck Wocken(ANN), Jason Prigge(ALL), Althea Heim(SFX), Kurt Stelten (SFX)
- Not Present: Jackie Popp(ANN), Gary Koshiol (SFX), Joan Krause (SH), Lisa Koll (SS), Dane Howard (ALL), Patrick Flynn (St. Cloud Diocese), Fr. Tom Knoblach (SH/ANN)
- Visitors: Vicki Welty & Jeff Brunn (Trustee SH), Becky Kulzer & Gerry Kittok (Pastoral Council SH), Nathan Goldade (Volunteer for Youth Program SH), & Laura Gorder (St. Cloud Diocese)

B. 4.18.23 Minutes Review & Approval

- Motion made by Kurt Stelten
- Seconded by Althea Heim

C. Updates of committee work and Pastoral Councils (7:10-7:20)

1. Discipleship (Jackie Popp) - read update that was provided by Jackie Poppe since she was not able to attend this meeting. List below is her update:
Learning together - Start with Jesus read & share has completed through chapter 1 and will progress 2 chapters per meeting. Dianne Blonigen noted their council is also reading this book.

Action Plan Updates -

Action Plan #3 Engage with area churches

We are encouraging each parish to identify 2 neighboring churches to engage as good neighbors. This plan deserves focus as there has been no movement.

Opportunities include the following:

- Invite to partner in attending <https://celebratemn.org/> Celebrate MN, Aug. 11-12 at Whitney Park.
- ACC and committees are encouraged to volunteer in support of the Sarah Hart outdoor concert and storytelling, July 18th (Tuesday) following 5:30pm Mass at SH, sloppy joes inside and treats outside. This event is due to the vision and leadership of Sarah Woeste at SH.
 - Reach out to invite the 2 neighboring churches to the concert.
- (Like "Welcome Wagon") Express appreciation to a Pastor (October appreciation day) or church board meeting by delivering a basket of goodies and a heartfelt message.

Action Plan #5 Increase parishioner sense of belonging and commitment (Pastoral Council partnership)

We hope to get our leadership together soon to socialize and foster relations between those of similar roles. Our challenge is our busy summer season and parish meeting calendars.

Discipleship will not meet on July 6th and resume Sept. 7th.

2. Young Adult - (Jason)

- Event "Together as One"
- Celebrate MN.Org: Evangelical outreach to churches.
- "All Call to Christ" Committee to help plan events with an ACC committee member. 10 Parishes involved and partnered with the Newman Center.
- Had an event geared towards young adults with children: Praise and Worship Night at St Aug's. (60-70 young adults attended.) Bible Study once a month which rotates between the 4 parishes. More of these events to come. Potluck and Worship night. Summer mini series that have a daily mass and then go to park and have a picnic.
- Nathan Goldade went to an event and heard they needed help and then decided to help volunteer with the young adult ministry.
- Needs assessment survey.
- One in Christ Newsletter going out to Households. Helps to get information from families on identity, age demographic, what they are looking for from the church, etc.
- Jeff Brunn: What can the parish do to highlight what the youth are doing. Talk about not just post-it. Possible video before mass showing activities the youth are engaged in together.
- Jason Prigge: Use Flock Notes for mass email and text but only limited. Many youth are opting out of text.
- Bringing in big names to attend events to draw in more youth.
- Future goals: Table at back of church after mass to greet young adults and convince them to get more involved in the church. Also answer questions about all the different duties, programs and time commitments so they are not afraid to get involved. Make it easy for them to see what it is all about. Maybe have them talk about their experiences at church and what their needs are that they would like fulfilled to feel more a part of the church.
- Jason Prigge: Hard for him to go to all of the parishes all of the time to reach out to the young adults. Need help from people in those parishes.
- Tom Offerdahl: Invite parents after their baptismal event to engage the young families and talk about the great youth ministry events and programs.
- Jason Prigge: Hand Written Cards to new members.

3. Worship/Spirituality

- Did not have a meeting.

4. Communications Conversation (Dana Howard)

- Mass Communication newsletter at printers now.
- Jason Prigge: Great Cover Story and then inside stories from all of the parish communities. This will go out to all of the households. To be added in the future is to include meaningful stories as a parish or as individuals in a parish.

5. Faith formation (Joan Krause) - read update that was provided by Joan Krause since she was not able to attend this meeting. List below is her update:

The group shared the strengths of current programs and discussed areas that could be improved.

Fr. Ron announced that St. Francis was not successful in hiring a qualified person for the open faith formation position. The plan is for Melissa and Sandee to share duties and cover that position for now.

Some areas of need that were discussed

- the need for administrative assistance
- Young Adult connection with those who have kids
- Adult formation
- A shared calendar
- Shared Youth Ministry events/opportunities
- Expansion of the Baptism prep program

Another meeting will be scheduled to develop SMART goals, concentrating on long range goals.

Each parish is asked to have 2-3 representatives on this committee.

Faith formation directors will be looking for people to join the committee. If you know of anyone interested, contact Joan so she can get them on the mailing list.

D. Pastoral Council update

1. Annunciation

- New upgraded WiFi
- Elderly Ministry: Elderly that are not getting to mass due to mobility. See that eucharist can get out to those people.
- During Morning Breakfast: invite Jason Prigge or Nathan Goldade to hit up families for youth group activities.
- Choir Director internship is up and now there is a need to find someone new.
- Jackie Popp and JoAnn Marshall: Eucharistic Revival
- Poster Boards in the parish community to show a compilation of Eucharistic miracles.
- Laura Gorder will ask around for discernment for additional parish council members. At 4 right now but in need of 7-8.

2. Sacred Heart

- Jeff Brunn: Men's Club to revisit breakfast after mass. Start approximately October.
- Book Study: Start with Jesus. All Parishes are reading this. On Chapter 3.
- Need a Google Calendar of events so all parish councils can see what events are going on in other parishes so they don't cross over on the same dates. Get more people to go visit other parishes that way. Shelly Pursley will reach out to Steph Rothstein and Dana Howard to add a calendar. Jason Prigge would also like to see events on the calendar in other parishes so he can also plan.

3. St. Francis -Xavier

- Book Study: Start with Jesus
- 75th Anniversary
- School Community enrollment is good. 259 students pre-5th grade. Most sections are full.
- The Bell tower is getting fixed and will be done in a few weeks.

4. St. Stephen

- Vibrance Committee

- Newsletter: The Church Steeple is sent out once a month except July/August. Hand out at the end of mass.
- Repairing Steeple.

E. Q &A Listening Session (7:55-8:10)

1. Questions to pose to attendees

- Reminder: If you are on ACC/Pastoral/ or Finance Council a flyer was sent for the social event on June 14th. Mass at 5:30 with Father Ron.
Bring spouses along. Held at St. Stephen which will be held outdoor weather permitting. Bring a lawn chair. Ice cream and turkey Sandwiches provided. St. Stephen parish members providing treats.
- Share stories in the Bulletin instead of on the Bulletin board. More people will see and read.

2. Questions to address from attendees

- None

F. Misc. (8:10-8:30)

1. Eucharistic Revival (St Cloud Diocese):

- All day event (Eucharist Congress) with a procession around Lake George. Saturday Sept. 9th. Free event. Starts with a Mass then kid's activities. Author Timothy O'Malley will talk.

2. February 11th Faith Formation Education Day event for Elementary Kids.

3. Next meeting is Tuesday, August 8th, at St. Francis Xavier.

G. Closing Prayer

Minutes submitted by Bonnie Dick