

Pastoral Council Meeting

July 28, 2022, 7:00 PM

Meeting Begins: 7:05 PM

Opening Prayer: Fr. Emmanuel Mensah

Minutes from last combined meeting: Motion to adopt. (Not completed to be completed 08/18/2022)

Roll Call:

Council Chair: Nita Holt

Patricia Cook (Shrine Representative)

Fr. Emmanuel Mensah

Leisa Billups

WC Guance

Unable to attend: Russ Terrillion & Gordon Tracy (Shrine)

Damian Dwyer

Calvin Holt (Finance Council Chair – rep. Finance Council)

Kimberly Rogerson (Bookkeeper/Admin)

New Business:

Welcome, Fr. Mensah!

Introduction of Council Members

Tabernacle – *Should be back around Sept. 1st or the first week of September.*

Fr. Mensah - Placement will require the pastor to change the seat position while behind the altar. The chapel will be used for confessions once the tabernacle is moved.

Calvin Holt – Flowers will have to be repositioned as well.

Sanctuary Lamp placement – Came to us from the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Linens-

Fr. Mensah – Sacred linens must be handled differently. (Temporary fix until verification of sink in the sacristy is direct to the ground, not sewer system. Rinse in a bowl, dump water in a designated space in Mary's Garden.)

Mary's Garden-

WC – When Pat and WC work on Mary's Garden, that will be an excellent time to place the paver. (Paver to mark the place to dispose of sacramental oils and water from rinsing sacred linens.)

Crucifix –

Fr. Mensah – The resurrection cross is beautiful. The background above the altar is not as large as the crucifix. Let's discuss. If you want it moved, that is fine, but I think what we have there is beautiful and fits well.

* Another concern is reverence. With the moving of the tabernacle and if the Crucifix is moved.

*Suggestion – Signs to remind parishioners of reverence while in the sanctuary.

Nita – Explained this is the old church and where everything was, choir, etc. If you decide to leave the crucifix where it is, it is your decision as a presider.

Leisa – Prefers it where it is. Reminds her of the old church. Flexible.

Nita – A family donated the risen Christ in memory of a parishioner who passed. Some of the family is still here. The 75th Anniversary of the Parish is next year.

Fr. Mensah – It is not definite. Whatever you advise me, I thought the space might be too small. Personally, if asked, I prefer the risen Christ.

The crucifix move is tabled, and an informal survey will be completed to get a feel for public opinion.

Fran Stewart – What happens to the processional cross if we move the Crucifix?

Fr. Mensah – Excellent question. We don't send it away. When we use incense, we use the processional crucifix. Over time, we shall address it.

Ideas for Fundraising -

Calvin – Funds were pulled from the investment account to cover the costs of remodeling the rectory and the church roof. The Investment account is now down to \$39,000.00 and was approximately 175,000.00.

WC – Maybe a special meeting,

Nita – According to diocesan instruction. The Pastoral Council decides on ministries' projects and submits them to the finance council to budget the projects. If the funds are not there, the Pastoral council finds ways to fundraise—phone calls to parishioners to drive fundraising.

WC – Some parishioners have quit donating because they don't know how the funds are used. Someone needs to stand up and give updates.

Calvin – Budget has 100-line items; what do we need to review?

Nita – Moving forward, you don't need to look at the past.

Leisa – We need to be transparent.

Kim – An update on recent projects and expenditures needs to be given.

Nita – Calls and mail bulletins if needed.

Calvin - Pictures speaks a thousand words.

Kim – I suggest a presentation. This was all completely paid for; no loan was taken out.

Current ministries –

Prison Ministry – Fr. Charles used to go with Mike Cuneo.

Fr. Mensah – I have been involved with the prison ministry.

Kim – Letter was received from Deerfield. Fr. Mensah has statewide volunteer authorization.

Pat Cook – A group of ladies wanted to start visiting the women's facility, and we could not get ahold of anyone. Some ladies would like to visit the lady's facility.

Leisa- Deerfield is in Southampton County – Not sure if they are open yet for a visit due to covid.

Social Ministry-

Nita – Holiday baskets and angel tree (Alex Ona & Linda Dwyer), Also assistance program using fuel and hunger funds.

Fr. Mensah – Good Shepherd has funds available due to a lack of applications for assistance. **Formal request written and signed. Request for \$1,500.00 made. (Kim)**

Damian – The eviction moratorium was lifted. There will be an increased need for rent assistance.

Kim – We have already assisted multiple people in avoiding eviction. Explained the story of the McKnight family.

Nita – Newsletter – Pray for the sick and people in need. One sheet of paper.

Liturgy Ministry –

Leisa – Eucharistic Minister Coordinator

Damian – Liturgical Committee needs a refresher, as well as Mary Edwards, who Can lead service in the absence of a priest.

Pat Cook – If you train, please include Christian Bennett at the Shrine

Kim – Funeral Ministry, Counter Ministry, Faith Formation, Gardening, Linens, Hospitality

(Vickie and Joe Dobbins have agreed to coordinate Faith Formation)

Lector Ministry – Mary Edwards

Fr. Mensah – Leisa would like to meet to discuss shut-ins.

Nita – Ministry Drive – Recruitment – Newcomer's potluck. We can revive what has worked in the past: Birthdays cake and baby Jesus' cake on the 24th of December.

Repairs & Maintenance –

WC – We have painted the inside of the church and classroom updates; we funded the paint. Mary's Garden, we maintain that. Statues were painted. Septic for the bathroom downstairs was put in. The back wood door is warped in Sanctuary and needs to be replaced.

Pat and WC hosted bingo – Funded, and 100% went to the church.

Leisa – it would be a great thing to bring back.

Nita – Ladies club raised money to buy the organ that is in the sanctuary.

Kim - Wright Funeral Home is fully sponsoring the Calendar this year.

Note: Schedule Meetings for Ministries.

Fr. Mensah- Role of Pastoral Council

- Annual Diocesan Appeal – The diocese is willing to help in any way. We need to hit the goal 100%.

WC – Role of the council – I have heard several members' state. I will direct the Administrative Assistant to get that done. Committees and councils do not have that authority.

Nita – There are seven members, including the Shrine. Calvin is here as a representative of the Finance Council to funnel requests to the Finance Council for the next meeting.

Fr. Mensah – The two councils are entirely different, and Calvin does not decide on his own. But it is OK for him to be here to make notes and bring them to the body of the Finance Council.

Nita – The pastoral council suggests who could be on the council. For the finance council, there are resumes to consider and experience.

Nita – Stick to third Thursday of the Month for meetings. Stay at 7 PM.

Kim – Think of people who work.

Nita – 7:00 PM is Good.

WC- Try for a couple of months and re-evaluate.

Leisa – Agreed

Damian - For the remainder of the year, then.

Nita - Next meeting is on August 18th.

Should we Increase Members –

Nita – Seven Members is the minimum – 2 (Shrine)/ 5 (St. Jude)

Damian – We serve at the pleasure of the priest, so we should ask Fr. Mensah. Do we want a refresh of the parish council as well?

Fr. Mensah – I would like to make it through the year before making any changes. Then re-evaluate.

Damian – We will continue in our current form through the end of the year.

Damian – Parishioners felt orphaned by the diocese. Fr. Mensah's arrival will ease people's minds' concerns, and generosity will return.

Recommendations for Finance Council-

Kim – Gave Clarification of what this means. *Opportunity to make requests to finance council representative who is attending the pastoral council meeting to take back to the finance council.*

Old Business -

Suggestion Box –

- It would be helpful for Synod to have a categorized form to make the next one easier. (Nita)
- Should have the option to make it anonymous. (Kim)
- Have a line for the name and phone number available. (WC)
- Make people aware that it is there and not just in the bulletin. (WC)
- I will make the announcement. (Leisa)
- Nita has a box that locks

Door locks- Question on who can have a key.

- Keys and locks were changed. (Kim)
- Is there a policy on who gets a key? (Calvin)
- Who can have a key? (Nita)

Nita – Coffee used to be set up the Saturday before for the following day.

Revival Cursillo Group Meeting –

Nita – We have been asked to host an Ultrea. We have been asked to host every July. Our Cursillo group used to meet every first Sunday of the month. This stopped due to the pandemic.

Parishioners Request: Communion

Nita- Can Fr. Mensah alternate which side he gives communion out?

Fr. Mensah – Thank you for letting me know. I will do that.

Leisa – Ministers will follow Fr. Mensah's lead.

Closing Comments-

Fr. Mensah – Thank you once again, and I greatly appreciate the welcome potluck you gave me.

Nita – Parishioners like participatory opportunities.

Kim – Thursday masses offer participation

Closing Prayer: Fr. Mensah

Meeting Closed: 8:44 PM

Pastoral Council Chair: Nita J. Holt Date: August 18, 2022

Pastor: [Signature] Date: August 18, 2022

Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper: [Signature] Date: 8/18/2022