**Church of St Patrick**

**Parish Council**

**MINUTES: August 17, 2023**

**Members Present:**Fr. Kuss, Liz Gerlach, Terry Kaspen, Roseanne Strand, Grace Hansen, Lisa Romain, Zach Neuman, Bernadette Daly, Ivan Pittaluga, Andy Piazza

**Members Present via Zoom:**Bill Schnobrich, Jim Swanke

**Members Absent:**Allison Schmidt, Mike Weibel and Daniel Farris

**July 13 Meeting's Minutes Approved**

**Updates from Fr Kuss**

* He feels that our priorities are sound.
* He spoke about evangelization.
  + It is always invitational and personal, which is why we sponsor things like the Summer Concerts and Octoberfest and hospitality after the Masses.
  + It also involves sharing the "story of Jesus Christ," including various forms of education.
  + The response to coming to Faith is to worship the One you know through the sacraments.
  + Works of charity follow this all.
  + He spoke of spiritual and corporal works of mercy. These start with community *action*that can lead to community *building.*
* Regarding Parish Priorities:
  + He believes we are on a good track for Faith Formation.
  + Stewardship: He would like to clarify the meaning of Stewardship.
    - It is not just a random donation. It is a biblical obligation to tithe 10% of your earnings. Father Kuss asked for suggestions from the Council on making this clear to parishioners.
    - Zach suggested that we clarify the good things that our Church does.
    - Roseanne thinks the upcoming financial report from Jim Swanke will help clarify the broad range of our finances. She feels we should emphasize the expenses in the good things we have done.
    - Fr Kuss pointed out that other church denominations are very good at clarifying the tithing obligation. He needs to learn to incorporate the message weekly, not just a handful of times yearly.
    - Books and studies are presented at other churches.
    - We need to educate the parishioners who are not highly engaged. Many don't even attend Mass.
    - Ivan mentioned a book series written by a Catholic priest about Stewardship.
    - Fr Kuss would like a group to work with him on this. Ivan and Roseanne volunteered to help. Jim suggested adding a member from the Finance Council.
  + Ministry Tabling Event- Carrie found a pamphlet put together in the year 2014. She is working on updating it. Tuesday will be the first edit. We will plan on hosting this event for four weekends after Labor Day.
    - Ministries will include Liturgy, Faith Formation, the Women's Group, the Men's Group, Choir, Greeters and Ushers, Hospitality, Pastoral, Small Group, Adult Faith Formation, RCIA, and member sign-up.
  + Fr. Kuss has invited Brian Brown to be the Trustee.
  + Fr Kuss would like to invite people of the Parish to share their stories on why they are Catholic and belong to St Patrick's. They could write a message for the bulletin, record a video for the Website, or speak at Church.

**Updates from Bill**

* The Server project has been completed with no glitches.
* The exterior tree project is complete.
* Carley O'Bryan started on Sunday. She will be introduced at all Masses in the upcoming weekend.

**Women's Group- Grace**

* On October 1, there will be a Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon.
* They will sponsor a Food Drive for Catholic Charities in December.
* They were asked to host a Deanery meeting. Bernadette was asked to help handle the details.

**More Updates- Liz**

* The Women's Group luncheon at the Hilltop had about 40 attendees.
* The Second Friday Gathering Social took place last week. We have different groups hosting. The Parish Council will be asked to host in February.
* We have a team of 4 who took up the leadership of VEAP. They will coordinate with ABC Preschool.

**Strategic Plan - vote**

* It was voted 9-0 to use Parish Council members to execute the three-year Strategic Plan. A potential partner proposal was reviewed from the Prouty Group and was not approved.
* This would involve a combination of the Parish Council, the Finance Council, the various groups we represent, and the staff.
* At next month's meeting, the questionnaire the Council has been preparing will be presented for further discussion.

**Changes in Council Positions**

* Liz Gerlach's Chair term will end in December 2023 after 2.5 years in the chair role and three years in the vice-chair position. (5.5 years in total)
* Terry Kaspen will rotate into the chair position from his vice-chair role.
* The by-laws will be noted to move chair and vice-chair positions to 2 years, as before Covid.
* Please share the names of the vice-chair candidates.

**8:00 pm Adjournment**

**Respectfully submitted by Lisa Romain.**