

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 15, 2017

Excused – Clarence Heller; Cecilia Andres, Suzanne S.
Minutes to taken by Mallory

6:58PM—Opening Prayer by Nancy Emmel

6:58PM—Diana moves to approve January Meeting Minutes; Nancy seconds.

6:59PM—Mary moves to approve February Agenda; Nancy seconds.

7:00PM—Council checks in and shares personal updates.

7:10PM—Report on Small Groups from Judy DeFrank. Changing name from “Small Groups” to “Small Communities of Faith.” Plan is to host a Parish Renewal for the whole community over the course of a weekend and from there sign up for the small communities. Different than a typical retreat—much deeper model intended to build community. Use a committee to find a location, choose dates, etc. We would potentially be looking at the third weekend of May for the retreat. This is three months from this week, so we need to confirm the dates and get a “Save the Date” out ASAP. There are upcoming meetings scheduled on this topic on 2/16/17 and 2/27/17.

7:20PM—Mid-America Diocesan Synod report from Frank. Will be hosted in St. Louis on March 6th-9th. Our community can be represented by seven lay delegates. We would ask our existing four national delegates and add three more. This regional Synod will happen every other year when there is no National Synod. Part of the Synod will be a Chrism Mass, which will likely be held at St. Stans during that week. Council expressed concern about quick timeline of this event and the fact that representation would predominantly clergy and lay retirees who don’t have work obligations. Several Council members noted that this would not fully represent our community. Given the quick timeline, the Council is nominating three individuals to serve in these roles. Frank will reach out to both the national delegates and the Parish Council nominees to see if they are available to serve in this capacity on these dates.

7:39PM—Parish Council reviewed a proposal from Bob Crecelius on Muslim relations and bringing in Dr. Bahar Bastani to speak to our community about Muslim faith and host one or more interfaith experiences with his community. The Council is in favor of this proposal and will reach out to Bob about scheduling this in the coming months. The Council also agrees that speakers should begin at 3:30PM in the future in order for it not to feel rushed and for community members to have time to prepare for Mass after the guest speaker. Suzanne wrote in feedback to ensure that the PR Committee is looped in and can be promoting this opportunity.

7:45PM—Council begin discussion of a proposal to experiment with a Sunday Morning Mass. The Mead Center has offered us space on Sunday morning, if we were to begin at 9AM or 9:30AM (there is another group in the space starting at 11AM). All of our clergy is willing to celebrate Mass there. Ann would be willing to do music two Sundays each month at no extra cost and recruit volunteers to lead music on the other two Sundays. Council received letters from Clarence Heller, Marilyn Heller and Sue Self, each expressing strong opinions on the issue.

Background from Frank: The community has always desired to experiment with a Sunday morning Mass, but the space has never been available to us. In the ECC, Sunday morning Masses are always desired because it is an opportunity grow the community to folks who are not able to attend services on Saturday evenings. From time to time, we have had specific community members request services so that they could join the community or attend more frequently. We recognize that this is a contentious issue and want to ensure that this is carefully rolled out to the community to be respectful of everyone's feelings and concerns.

Key Questions/Thoughts from the Council:

- How many people would need to regularly be attending a Sunday Mass for us to sustain it after the trial?
- How is this different from creating a second ECC community?
- How would we still create opportunities for the full community to come together?
- Is this actually a facility issue? Would people have fewer concerns about adding a service if we were in a different location where we could have both Saturday evening and Sunday morning masses?
- The growth issue is potentially the most compelling. We might be missing some wonderful people from the community because Saturday evenings don't work for them.
- Jim put together a list of needs for facilitating a Mass—is there anything that would be a barrier to experimenting?

The Parish Council voted 7-1 in favor to try Sunday morning on an experimental basis. Clarence Heller opposes the measure. Cecelia did not cast a vote as she is not in attendance and was not able to submit a vote in advance as Clarence and Suzanne did.

The Parish Council also voted to hold a convocation on Saturday, March 4th at 3:30PM to give the community the opportunity to provide the Pastor and Parish Council feedback regarding this experiment.

8:35PM—Jim will do hospitality in May.

8:37PM—Mallory shared an idea from her office about assigning a role of a conflict miner at each meeting. The Council voted to try assigning this role on an experimental basis, along with the prayer and note-taker assigned for each meeting.

8:40PM—Diana was having technology issues that delayed the job descriptions. She is now working on this again.

8:45PM—The Council decided that the following agenda items will be postponed until March:

- Follow up on our goals- Any loose ends? (Mallory)
- Parish Twinning Program (Follow-up on Kristi's presentation and hand-out)
- Discuss a rule on terms for Committee Chairs.

8:51PM—Judy moves that we adjourn the meeting. Everyone seconds.