

Roles for This Meeting : **Facilitator(s):** Larry **Note Taker:** Teresina

Attendees: Katie, Larry, Teresina, Ada, Chrysti, Richard, Jim Nelson, Jim Grant, Pam, Gerry

Meeting Summary:

The meeting focused on approving previous meeting minutes, planning upcoming ministry presentations, discussing goals for 2026–2027, improving communication and visibility of the Pastoral Council, preparing for the upcoming Ministry Fair, and reviewing the council's purpose and future direction. The group also discussed participation in diocesan synodal listening sessions and ways to better engage parishioners.

Approve Minutes:

- April and May meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by motion, second and vote.

Ministry Presentations:

- Ministry presentations will resume in September:
 - Familiastery, Joy of Love Moms, SoulCore, Hikes with Mary
 - Volunteers (Gerry and Pam) agreed to help contact additional ministries for presentations in October, November, and December.
 - Katie will share a tracking list to avoid duplicate outreach and monitor progress.
 - Goal is to schedule approximately 3–4 ministry presentations per meeting.

Goal Setting for 2026/2027:

- Reviewed previously identified strategic focus areas:
 - Parish Community Building
 - Faith Formation
 - Hospitality and Fellowship
- Discussed continuing to build upon existing goals rather than creating entirely new ones.
- Emphasized the importance of coordination among ministries to avoid duplication of efforts and better utilize parish resources.
- **Communication and Visibility**
 - Communication emerged as the primary goal for the coming year.
 - Concerns were raised that many parishioners do not understand:
 - What the Pastoral Council does
 - Its role within the parish
 - The accomplishments it has achieved
 - Discussed:
 - Updating the website with current information and meeting minutes
 - Publishing more regular updates
 - Using bulletin announcements, QR codes, and website links
 - Increasing visibility of council activities and accomplishments

- Members agreed the council should be more proactive in communicating its purpose and progress to parishioners.
- **Review of Council Purpose**
 - Reviewed the council's established responsibilities:
 - Priorities and planning
 - Implementation – supporting PLC and staff
 - Parish involvement
 - Shared planning
 - Discussed varying interpretations of the council's role and the need to ensure all members have a common understanding of its mission.
 - Agreed to revisit historical documents and prior discussions to clarify purpose and direction.
- **Review of Past Accomplishments**
 - Members highlighted accomplishments influenced or initiated by the council, including:
 - Adoption of Pastoral Council guidelines
 - Creation of strategic focus areas
 - Suggestion box implementation
 - Religious education improvements
 - Religious Ed teacher certification efforts
 - Ministry fairs – twice a year
 - Recruitment of ministry leaders and volunteers
 - Children's Liturgy of the Word growth
 - Confirmation ministry expansion
 - Ministry leader coordination – Hector having meeting on Sunday with all ministry leaders
 - Return of the parish festival
 - Discussion emphasized that while the council may not directly execute all projects, it often initiates and supports them.
- **Ministry Fair Planning**
 - Members discussed staffing the Pastoral Council table during the upcoming Ministry Fair.
 - Agreed to prepare a handout explaining:
 - Who the Pastoral Council is
 - Its strategic focus areas
 - Key accomplishments
 - Gerry and Teresina volunteered to help staff the table throughout the weekend. Gerry after 7:30am mass, Teresina after 7pm mass. Larry requested his ministry table be set next to pastoral council table so he can assist as well.
- **Future Planning**
 - Katie and Larry will:
 - Develop a communication plan
 - Refresh website content
 - Create Ministry Fair materials
 - Compile historical council information for review

- Discussion about potentially surveying council members and parishioners regarding future goals.
- Volunteers who are contacting ministries will provide updates at the next meeting.
- **Synodal Listening Sessions**
 - Members were encouraged to participate in diocesan listening sessions focused on marriage and family life.
 - Sessions are part of a broader effort requested by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the Vatican.
 - The council discussed how synodal principles align with the work of the Pastoral Council and parish listening efforts.
- **Parish Engagement and Social Media**
 - Members discussed the strong response received from a recent social media poll regarding placement of a parish bench.
 - The poll generated hundreds of responses, demonstrating that social media may be an effective tool for gathering parish feedback and increasing engagement.
 - Consideration was given to using social media more broadly for parish communication and surveys.

Action Items

- Gerry and Pam to contact ministries for October–December presentations.
- Katie - share ministry presentation tracking list with council members.
- Katie/Larry - Create a Pastoral Council handout for the Ministry Fair.
- Refresh website and communication materials.
- Compile historical council goals, mission information, and accomplishments for review.
- Include ministry presentation updates on the September agenda.
- Encourage participation in synodal listening sessions.
- Explore greater use of social media for parish communication and feedback.

Next Meeting:

- September 17, 2026 6:00 – 7:30pm