

SPCNC PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

December 18, 2025

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

Attendees: Dan, Katie, Ada, Jim Grant, Jim Nelson, Pam, Sonya, Edgar, Gerry, Richard, Teresina

Approve Minutes, Updates from Last Meeting :

- Any changes needed on last meeting minutes? – none noted
- Ada – motion to approve, Jim Nelson seconded
- November meeting minutes approved with no changes

Synodal Articles Sent by Jim Grant:

- Review of article on Synodal process and how we can apply it to the parish and our Pastoral Council
- Jim Grant – out of the entire 60 page document that was approved on Oct 27th 2024, Article #28 – helps set up something to work with – Jim provided handout and we read together out loud, line by line.
- Discussed whether spirit has moved any of us with the reading -
 - We need to form communities, sharing ; evangelization is not conquering, based on a life of grace
 - Relational – one on one meetings create connections; Always interconnected, making our communities training grounds of fraternity and sharing, not merely meeting places, but centers of spirituality
 - The last sentence in the first paragraph, - to make her, the church, which is who partly we are - more capable of walking with every man and woman, radiating the life of Christ, and not reflecting and mirroring what people want through our church.
 - From the homily - the spirit of Jesus changes the world because he changes hearts
 - We're here to represent others, and we can't represent others if we don't walk with them and know them.
 - 'We are people on the move' - reminds us that we cannot just say we made it, or we've accomplished it, because it's never done, and we always have to be repackaging the message to reach more people.
- Article 28 and homily from Pope Leo (Pentecost June 7th, 2025) - his homily captures the spirit of the synod; he cited it directly and indirectly.
- This demands a lot more time, but now we can look to how we implement this with our strategic planning

Strategic Planning:

- Katie and Dan met for the second time. (Larry and Francesca couldn't make it)
 - Came up with document that was sent out to group (Strategic Plan Way-ahead Dec 2025)
 - Will review to get thoughts and determine what do we need to do to start in January.
- Strategy and Process for Strategic Plan Development (separate attachment) – Feedback/discussion:
 - Trying to have a campaign that people get excited about and want to be involved with.

- Based on the synod, trying to get parish input again, we have been focused on the 3 areas and a strategic plan, but somewhere along the line we lost the parish feedback and input.
- change from presenting this as a strategic plan, which sounds very business oriented, we thought maybe we need to come up with something else, maybe 'Pathway to a Thriving Parish by 2030' or something along that line. Marketing idea – train, Jesus driving locomotive, focus areas are each shown as a train car, so we can update on each.
- Another idea for marketing - 'Class of 2030' – tie in university with a course schedule; campus map; 4 years out; ties it back to university parish.
- Clarification - this where we want to be in 2030? - yes building and working on it in the years coming up to it.
- Some comments:
 - Steer away from not using common language, so most people can understand, need to simplify
 - 'Pathway to a thriving parish'; level at which people can grasp; what do we want to accomplish?
 - Some of our parishioners don't see this as a university parish; we might alienate people;
 - Take into consideration the different types of parishioners; we need to decide how to market this.
 - Bigger umbrella; for a community aspect. Theme should be obvious and not need to be explained to get people on board.
 - Does starting with educational piece make sense? Most felt yes, however some disagreement. Asking people who just come on Sunday, they don't have buy-in yet. What is it going to take to get more people to stay? and be part of this if we don't get more people interested first.
 - We need to ask people at least one question; to make them feel included; some kind of feedback. Don't just present to them. This is an opportunity for a synodal process. Find out why they come and why they chose Newman; important that there is listening too.
 - Write up questions to get feedback, some sort of listening should be part of the education sessions as well. Figure out what the interaction will be; opportunity to share;
 - Give opportunity to those who want to enter more deeply into this community.
- Father Rubi suggested they invite us to talk during the homily; to educate – and invite to stay after mass for questions. Priests could do a short homily that week, then we could speak the education piece, followed with a listening session after mass – call it 'the gathering' not too formal.
- If we move the needle even 1%; synodal; year over year; if we have engaging synodal process; we could be a more vibrant community.
- **Action Item volunteers:**
 - 'Pathways to a thriving parish' – Marketing for January and February sessions - Sonya, Gerry, Chrysti
 - Script for the January education – Edgar, Dan
 - Present in January – Edgar, Katie, Richard, Dan (5-7 minutes for presentation during Homily– per Father Rubi)

- Technical with how to present in Chapel without screens (graphic display while we are talking) – Larry
- Jan 9th – anyone with assigned action items send those by the 9th to Dan/Katie to distribute to the entire group

Ministry Leaders Meeting Approach:

- Discuss Options for Inviting Ministry Leaders to Pastoral Council
- Should bring the list of 10 questions down to 5 questions – this will be handled by smaller group and brought back to group.
- Dan made a suggestion to wait on the ministry meeting until March – so that we have time to really focus and get going on the strategic planning and parish input
- Motion made – Postpone January meeting with ministry leaders – turning over to Ada/Pam to propose recommendations for a March timeframe. All are in favor – motion passed
- **Action Item Volunteers:**
 - Ministry meeting plan – March timeframe - Ada, Pam and Chrysti – Ask Chrysti – does she want to be involved in this as well as marketing – or select one?

Action Items:

- Strategic Planning
 - Marketing for January and February sessions ('Pathways to a thriving parish') – *Sonya, Gerry, Chrysti?*
 - Script for the January Education – *Edgar, Dan*
 - Present at masses in January – *Edgar, Katie, Richard, Dan*
 - Technical – how to present in Chapel without screens – *Larry*
 - All assignments should be submitted to Katie/Dan by Jan 9th so they can be distributed to the entire group
- Ministry Meeting
 - Plan for Ministry meeting and final questions – *Ada, Pam, Chrysti?*
- Chrysti – do you want to be involved in Marketing for strategic planning, and planning for the Ministry meeting or just select one?

Next Meeting:

- January 15th 6:00 – 7:30pm