

SPCNC PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES - November 20, 2025

Facilitator(s): Larry **Note Taker:** Teresina

Attendees

- Larry, Teresina, Dan, Ada, Katie, Richard, Jim Nelson, Francesca

Approve Minutes

- Larry asked if there were any changes needed on last meeting minutes – none noted
- October meeting minutes approved with no changes
- Katie reminded everyone that once approved the Meeting minutes will be made public (posted on website)

Discussion on Synodal Articles Sent by Jim Grant

- Larry suggested since Jim is out of town, we table this until next month – when Jim returns.
- Richard – has not read them, got security warning on links. Larry to download documents and send directly to Richard.
- Everyone agreed to table discussion until Jim Grant is back.

Discussion on Strategic Planning

- Larry, Dan, and Katie met for a preliminary meeting.
- Building a strategic plan is a big ask, it will take multiple years. Strategically looking toward 2030.
- Start with series of communication efforts to the parish after first of the year.
 - Prepare parish for what we are going to do related to strategic planning.
 - Topics will include educating parish on how Newman is different, role/responsibility of Claretians, parish life coordinator, how leadership ties into campus outreach.
 - Dan provided a list of possible topic areas as a starting point. Important to let parishioners know the topics came from the initial discernment (2 years ago, 85-95 people participated), now we need to know 'What can you help us with?'
 - Initial focus is getting communication out to people
 - How to engage more people in this process, synodal process
- 2026 – will focus on informational and listening; campaign to have a strategic plan – where do we want to be in 2030?
- Point everything back to the mission of the parish; always circle back to that.
 - Nothing in mission/vision that talks about synodal process, may need to make some changes related to that. Will revisit that once Jim Grant is back and able to lead a discussion about those articles.
- Get more people involved. Requires an invitation, people need to feel welcomed
- Ask people to stay in church after mass to participate.
- Flocknote – need a drive to get people to sign up so they can receive communication on this campaign, surveys, etc. Need to be intentional about getting people to sign up.

- Pastoral council needs to ignite the flame to get this out there and build relationships with more people.
- Possible slogan - **“Come with us”**
- Calendar
 - Jan – education about process, what is the campaign we are launching – strategic plan, etc
 - Feb – education about our parish (informed parishioners)
 - What does the rest of the campaign look like? This is what we need to discuss as a Pastoral Council in the next few meetings. Listening session question ideas – what should be in strategic plan? what should be part of our plan for the future? What feeds you? What aren’t we doing? What should we be doing?
- Next steps for Strategic planning small group meeting -
 - Large scope for what this campaign ‘Come with us...’ is, outreach, marketing, communication
 - Presentation in February – education on how we are different as University Parish and PLC administrated parish.

Questions for Ministry Leaders

- Reviewed 15 questions that were sent to Dan from members. We went through all questions to decide whether they should be included.
- Decisions:
 - No - 1, 2, 4, 12 and 13 . For #12 – replace with an open-ended question at the end ‘Any additional info you’d like to provide?’
 - Yes - 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15 (reword 15)
 - Consensus – 10 questions is still a lot to send them, should probably narrow down further, possibly 5 max.
- Discussion around the goal of ministry leaders coming to the meeting, why are we inviting them? Many options/thoughts considered. What is our approach, our goal? Primary focus discussed - How are you being supported, what do you need?
- If all ministries are represented it will be around 30 leaders. Won’t have enough time in a single meeting to hear from all of them.
- Discussion on meeting structure, will we have enough time? Should be synodal format. Start with a reflection, start with prayer (Ada to provide reflection). Various tables for discussion in smaller groups, have their responses and review with them. Have 3 questions to ask in each small group.
 - Possible small group questions:
 - The people that participate in your ministry –what spiritual value do they get from it? Why do people come? What do people that volunteer/attend get from it.
 - How do we help you do your work, continue with your ministry?
 - How does your ministry support the parish mission?
 - Is it better to format this differently? start with a kick-off meeting for reflection, thanking them for their service and then invite 2 ministries a month to our meetings?
- Ministry definition discussed - what technically is a ministry – diocesan definition: group at the parish that does something, for which we manage the finances. The list that was sent out was for all parish outreach.

- Ideas/Suggestions for January meeting with ministries–
 - Kick-off – call them together, reflection, tell them about what we are doing and invite them to subsequent meetings (possibly 2 ministries a month)
 - Kick-off – call them together, reflection, tell them about what we are doing, meet in small groups for a listening session to ask them ‘How are you doing, how can we help you?’
 - No kick-off with all ministry leaders – just invite 2 to each meeting starting in January.
- Put the suggestions in writing and send them to the group and we can decide format for January meeting.

Committee Reports

- No time for committee work, tabling this for next meeting. Does it make sense that the committees that we created work outside of this meeting and bring their summary reports to these meetings, given the amount of work we are trying to accomplish in these meetings? Yes, all agreed. This is what we will do going forward.

Action Items

- Dan/Ada – to put together description of options for the meeting with the ministry leaders and the finalized list of questions.
 - Send to entire Pastoral Council and request voting by a specific date.
- Once questions and meeting format are determined – send communication to ministry leaders.
- Strategic planning group – meet again - they will plan what to do for January/February. Include Francesca. (Larry, Dan, Katie and Francesca)

Next Meeting

- December 18th 6:00 – 7:30pm
 - Question - holidays, will people make it, should we still have the meeting?
 - Decision – since there is a lot we are trying to do, we should still have the December meeting.
 - Question – can we add a zoom meeting for people who can’t attend in person. Yes – we can try to do that, but the preference is to attend in person.