

SPCNC Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes - October 16, 2025

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

Approve Minutes:

- Larry asked if there were any changes needed on last meeting minutes – none noted
- September meeting minutes approved with no changes

Council Annual Report:

- Gathered group feedback regarding annual report draft – intent is to get this published, so that we can begin educating the parish about what we've been doing.
- Feedback:
 - Update first paragraph – to indicate August 2024-August 2025;
 - Regarding ministry fairs – surveys were done and people wanted 1 or 2 ministry fairs per year, not 3 – make the note on ministry fairs more generic, not to indicate specific number but rather 'regularly scheduled' ministry fairs.
 - CLOW – was consequence of initial discernment period.
 - List of ministry leaders 'formalized'
 - Change heading to 'Pastoral Council and Parish Discernment fruits'
 - Pastoral guidelines - discussion on origin, as we had a document to start with. This came out of Information gathering; Change to 'Pastoral council guidelines adopted'
 - Religious education - regular meetings with teachers with DRE (instead of specifically naming Father David)
- Council Annual Report was approved as amended (based on feedback)

Pastoral Guidelines:

- Reviewed & finalized proposed changes to the Pastoral Guidelines from the last meeting. See *pastoralcouncilguidelinesproposedchanges.docx* that was emailed to the group – proposed changes are in red.
- Discussion surrounding whether we are developing a strategic plan. Who is developing the plan? Thriving parish, pastoral council, staff, finance council? Should have input from all of these groups and it is a collaborative effort. Parishioners wanted to be represented in the strategic planning – that the core of what we are doing. We have not yet established a strategic plan, our focus the past year was on establishing the guidelines and tackling the issues that came out of the discernments. We are participating in a collaborative framework for a strategic plan. Our role is to be 'bigger picture' people.
- Proposed changes were reviewed by the group and voted on:
 - Do we change the title to 'Pastoral Council Standards (or Blueprint)' – Voted to keep title 'Guidelines'
 - Voted to change Section I – a) to: Priorities and Planning: To determine priorities, support and develop a collaborative strategic plan with a vision for the future of our university parish.

- Voted to change Section I – e) to: Pastoral Council is a catalyst with initiatives handed off to staff, ministry or parishioners.
- Voted to keep Section I – f) as written
- Voted to keep Section IV – a) as written
- Voted to change Section IV – c) from April/May to October/November
- Voted to keep Section VI and VII changes as written
- Voted to change Section VIII – b) to a meeting start time of 6pm (voted to adopt an earlier start time since clergy are not attending meetings.)
- Voted to keep Section VIII – i) as written

New Business:

- Jim Grant – we need to review synodal process from the Vatican; every parish should have it. We should schedule an event – synodal teaching in the new year; ‘Pathways’ document. If we want to do this council well - we should be in line with what the church is doing globally.
 - Would we want to educate the pastoral council first on these documents? Yes
 - First review with the pastoral council
 - Notes in the bulletin; accountability; transparency and evaluation
 - Jim provided the documents to the council via email a few months ago
 - Suggestion – do we have a committee on synod; how we can implement and expand into the parish; what is a synodal church, what does it look like? Do we make this part of the agenda at each meeting?
 - Jim can provide us a single document ‘Pathways’ - how to implement the synod – send it to Teresina and it will be attached to the minutes that are sent out for this meeting.
- Katie – do we need a mission statement that speaks to the synodality that we should be engaging in; support the mission of the parish?
 - DEVELOP A MISSION STATEMENT - Do we explore this? Decision was Yes – we should look at developing a mission statement.
- Dan - Do we want a possible framework for a strategic plan to discuss at next meeting? Strategic plan – begin this process; start to develop a framework;
 - Come up with questions we want to ask ministry leaders – to discuss at next meeting.
 - Need ministry leaders input into strategic planning.
- Ministry leaders invitation to meeting – discussion:
 - Are we inviting all ministries to one meeting? We will invite ministry leaders/representative from each ministry.
 - Invite all of them to one meeting; ask questions, we need their feedback into the strategic plan.
 - Get questions out in advance; so they can discern and be ready to provide input.
 - We need time to prepare questions to make sure we have the best use of our time with them – decision made to invite them to January meeting, allowing for planning/preparation of questions.
 - Think of questions in advance; work on them for the next meeting. Larry will send out email to ministries
 - Katie will send list of ministries/leaders to all of us, so we can prepare questions

- Katie – question regarding non-active members. There are 3 non-active members. She reached out and heard back from one that they would like to opt out, however she did not hear from 2 of them – what do we do? Decision - thank them for their year of service and we should replace them.
 - This leaves 13 active members, not counting staff. Current Members are: Chrysti, Francesca, Teresina, Jim Grant, Pam, Ada, Richard, Sonya, Jim Nelson, Dan, Larry, Hector and Gerry.
 - 2 new members – ask for nominations/self-nominate

We ran out of time and were not able to get to the Committee Work agenda item in this meeting.

Action items:

1. **Jim** to send article regarding synodal process to Teresina, so it can be sent with the minutes. Everyone should review and be ready to discuss at the next meeting. (Jim sent email with resources to Pastoral Council on 10/20/25)
2. **Katie** to send list of ministries/leaders to entire group.
3. **Larry** will send message to ministry leaders about January meeting and expectations.
4. **Dan/Katie/Larry** –meet regarding foundational strategic plan document. Anyone else who is interested can also be included, just let them know. We will start to review at next month's meeting.
5. **Everyone** - work on questions for ministry leaders. Send questions to Dan by **October 30th**. He will compile and send out prior to the November meeting so that we can review/discuss.
6. **Katie** – put announcement in bulletin to ask for nominations for 2 new members. Work into announcements/social media.

Next meeting Nov 20th at 6pm

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