



Holy Spirit Catholic Church

A Parish of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg

Parish Council Minutes

September 22, 2022

- I. Father Anthony opened with a meditation and reflection on the story of Noah and the Ark
- II. Finance Committee Update
 - a. Current Financial Standing was provided
 - b. Lebanon Catholic Debt Payment was discussed. There is a remaining balance of \$43,987 to be paid over the next 3 years. We have substantially reduced this from a total debt of all parishes of 2.3 million that was distributed to all Lebanon parishes after sale of property and contents.
 - c. Discussion on Assessment shortfall to the Diocese – There will not be further solicitation of the parishioners other than what was already completed this year.
 - d. Discussion on Parish needs – ie: Carpet – Janet provided that this is planned with the Reserves for next year.
- III. June Minutes – Not Available
- IV. Ministry Assignments
 - a. Education was provided to new members of Council on the request to bring back updates on their assigned ministries.
 - b. We discussed the use of the current form for the ministry to provide the update. Discussion was that it was not user friendly. We discussed that we need to capture what is happening with the ministry and the barriers and needs. The Council agreed that a more user-friendly form was needed that addressed the needs of the ministry. A motion was made by Rob to revise the template and add identified needs. Second of motion by Ed. All in attendance approved. Carla will take on creating a Google Doc Form that individuals can then go in and update prior to the council meeting. It will include any identified needs of the ministry. It will be up to the council member to review prior to the meeting to ensure that their council has completed and if not call to the identified lead to discuss the ministry and assist with form completion and to understand why we are asking for the information.
 - c. Assignments of the Ministries was discussed and divided among council members. (We should insert the chart with those assigned.)
- V. Council Meeting Day/Time Discussion
 - a. Discussion of the members of the conflicts in moving date/time with competing church functions, ie: Knights, Choir

- b. Members present approved meetings on Wednesday at 7pm: 11/16, 1/11, 3/8, 4/19, 6/14
- VI. Ministries of the Parish: Discussion on How parishioners know about the Ministries active in the parish. Discussion that in the past there was a Ministry Fair. Discussion on timing of Fair and involvement of the council as a priority. Discussed when volunteers sign up that they need to be included in meetings, activities, etc. New members are provided with a list of ministries active in the parish with contacts.
- a. Council approved having a Ministry Fair – Date/Time to come – Bill will be the lead.
 - b. Needs for event:
 - Set-up Tables
 - Ministry Needs
 - Drawing
 - Food
- VII. Ministries and Coffee/Donuts – Discussion on having ministries provide coffee/donuts after services to engage members and recruit new members especially new to the parish. We discussed this occurring on a rotational basis throughout the year.
(Carla we didn't take an action on this but agreed that it was a resurrected idea – Michelle will take on contacting the ministry leads and creating a calendar once the entire list is completed)
- VIII. Fundraising Opportunities – Trips
- a. Mark discussed that in his prior parish he planned and escorted individuals on trips that raised large sums of money (\$40,000). Trips were two buses with 90 people and destinations included Italy, Ireland, etc.
 - b. No action was taken at the meeting.
- IX. Parish Needs and Activities completed since last meeting
- a. Church Pews – Discussed the need for extending kneelers, refurbished pews that have worn from use/cleaning, and cushions on Pews – Discussion included that seat would change the acoustics of the church.
 - b. No action was taken and will be further discussed at next meeting.
 - c. Bishop Gainer will be coming on Sunday, October 23 to celebrate the 8:30am Mass
He will bless the newly erected Stations of the Cross
Discussion that plaques start clockwise around the church – discussion that QR codes may be added on depiction of the station.
 - d. Outdoor Clean up – Discussion on a volunteer day in October to clean up the gardens and area around the church. Ilsa, Joe, and Art should be part of the conversation. Rob has agreed to speak with them and come up with a date preferably before the Bishop visits.
- X. Diocese Synod Update – Now available on the church website.
<https://www.hbgdiocese.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Synod-Synthesis.pdf>

Discussion by Father Anthony and Susan on the synthesis of those responses and overall themes.

- a. Diocese Update: Themes emerged much like what individual shared at our parish.
Reaching our community – Homebound, Elderly, Divorced, Refugees, LGBTQ community
Damage caused by the clergy sexual abuse and the ongoing need to protect the vulnerable
Similarities included:
Youth Activities
New Family Outreach
Hardship
- b. USCCB Update: Forthcoming, Individual felt listened to and reported that the abuse of the most innocent had a sustaining impact, Pandemic impact

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/US%20National%20Synthesis%202021-2023%20Synod.pdf>

Identified needs: Immigrants, Undocumented, Mothers/Women, LGBTQ community, Annulment Process, Role of Women

XI. Adjournment

- a. Next Meeting 11/16 at 6:45pm with prayer and reflection
- b. Meeting at 7pm
- c. Remember to check in with your ministries

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Emerick