

Pastoral Council Minutes
December 13, 2011

Attending: Mary Kay Anderson, Beth Carroll, Eileen Gravani, Ned Lauber, Kristin Lynch, Father Joe Marcoux, Mary Lee Noden, Colleen Perkins, Nancy Pringle, Janet Strebel

Excused: Kristin Campagnolo, Kerry Curran, Carl Franck

Absent: Erin Fetsko, Rick Hartman, Beverly Way

Kristin Lynch led the group in an opening prayer.

Father Joe welcomed everyone and Janet introduced Ned Lauber, our new youth member. Members of the Pastoral Council introduced themselves.

Father Joe addressed the parish budget. There had been a deficit but that is no longer the case. He summarized some of the points at the parish forum, noting that it went well. Highlights are included in Father Joe's letter in the bulletin.

There was general agreement supporting the Pastoral Council norms. Ways to encourage everyone to share their views included: sharing in small groups; having other people in the small group provide the transition/invitation for another member to speak; letting another person in the group summarize the views stated; and encouraging trust so that each member will feel free to speak. Other suggestions included reading the norms after the prayer at each meeting and revisiting them periodically to see if we could like to modify them.

The Parish Forum on the Proposed Conceptual Plan was held on 12/04/11. Since the Board of Consulters was meeting the first week in January, the proposal needed to be submitted by 12/14/11. AS a result, the Parish Forum date was moved up. Janet apologized for not giving advance notice to the Pastoral Council members. Father Joe and the Executive Committee of the Pastoral Council led the discussion, with the Facilities Steering Planning Committee answering many of the questions. Some attendees were expecting to see blueprints, rather than simply a concept. There were a lot of questions and discussion, with the meeting going beyond the time planned. There were only five written comments submitted after the meeting. Janet indicated that if we did this type of meeting again, we could encourage people to provide written comments, reminding each of them as they left the meeting. The 13 page document with all the supporting information will be submitted soon. The previous project with the church came out well, so hopefully that will help our chances of approval.

The Executive Committee of the Board of Consulters will review the plan on 1/02/12 and then present the plan to the Council on 1/03/12. They will look at our parish and also regional needs.

Thank you to: The Choir for the beautiful concert;
The Bell Choir from the First Congregational Church;
The organizers of the Giving Tree;
Michelle Arroyo for organizing the Food Pantry Donations;
Mary Boris and Carol Chipalowsky for the Poinsettia Project;
Jeannie Barnaba and Nan Julian for leading the decorating of the church; and
Ernest Backus for his help with the high school youth group traveling to the National Catholic Youth Conference.

The meeting concluded with a prayer.