



Diocese of Green Bay
PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 31, 2018

Attendees: Bishop David Ricken, Very Reverends Daniel Felton and Luke Ferris, Monsignor James Dillenburg, Reverends Joel Sember, James P. Leary, OFM Cap, Jason Blahnik, Philip Dinh-Van-Thiep, Robert Kollath, Dave Hoffman, Richard Allen, Robert Kabat and Timothy Shillcox, O. Praem.

Excused: Reverend Timothy Brandt

Opening Activities

- Meeting opened at 10:01 a.m.
- Bishop Ricken led the Council members in the Liturgy of the Hours.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion approved unanimously.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve and adopt the meeting minutes of the February 15, 2018 meeting as written. Motion approved unanimously.
- Mission statement was recited by Council members.

Bishop opening comments

Thank you for those who serve on this committee and those whose terms are ending. Update with realigning the curia to the mission. We are moving from a department structure to teams. There are good signs of progress and this will help parishes, schools and other ministries within the diocese. It is cross-functionality. Most of the position openings are equivalent positions. Bishop went over a list of position updates. Peter Murphy has been hired as Director of Family & Schools of Discipleship Mission Team. We are restructuring to be on mission.

Update on Priests/Report on Priests who are Ill

Fr. Luke Ferris reported on priests and deacons who are ill or recovering from surgery. Fr. Luke talked about the priest nurse.

Check-in: How are the priest/pastoral leaders and people doing in your vicariate? What are areas of excitement, stress, confusion? Offer a transitional meeting to offer support. Capital campaign communication. We need the resources to be able to do what is needed. We are preparing ourselves for growth. School systems and parishes have a plan together. Offer mailing along with email for priest communication. The council talked about each vicariate.

Feedback on Alpha experience with Parish Staff & Leadership. Plans for Parish Launch of Alpha in the Fall 2018 Joe Tremblay

Joe Tremblay handed out a worksheet. Joe talked about the Alpha program. The Alpha course is an on ramp to discipleship. Joe went over the survey results. Nicky Gumble, consulted with Catholic individuals when creating Alpha. Alpha should be offered a minimum of twice per year. A few options were recommended for the final video for the Catholic session. Also, recommends have someone give a talk.

Bishop☒ Detroit had all programs stop so everyone could go through Alpha in a parish, Fr. John Ricardo. It took a couple of years. The vast majority of parishioners had a significant encounter with Christ, and/or a significant impact from Alpha. They had stopped faith formation. Sacred Heart in Lansing also did this and used Alpha for the beginning part of discipleship.

Joe will continue the Alpha I training for small group facilitators. The training is for one day. Alpha roll out timeline is on the sheet handed out. Where do we go after Alpha, could do a faith formation workshop for parish leaders. The discipleship process is accompanied by the individuals. People come back to the parish partly for the relationships they have formed. Discipleship grows at the speed of relationships. Catholic Christian Outreach is a good resource as it helps cover the conversion process. Joe recommends having them come in and do some training.

Bishop☒ Alpha will be ongoing. Someone who goes through Alpha can then help lead Alpha, forming disciples. Catholic Christian Outreach takes Alpha and helps to define what your role is in discipleship. Spirituality multiplication helps individuals to be a disciple and help makes disciples and it continues.

Joe☒ The first wave is for the parish leaders. There are different people on different phases of the spiritual journey. The parish leader needs to be able to help individuals with their journey. This fall, school teachers, catechists and engaged parishioners will go through Alpha. By 2020, invite people in the community to join Alpha. We will continue to offer the Alpha I training for small group facilitators. Alpha II is a follow-up to Alpha I, give best practices and how to promote Alpha. Show how to incorporate it with sacramental preparation. Joe has received very promising feedback with Alpha Youth. This allows kids to work through their connection with God. We have pilot parishes that will have Alpha youth in their faith formation. Work to get parents on board with Alpha Youth so they are a part of the process. The pilot parishes with Alpha are about a year ahead. Joe went to an Alpha conference and mentioned that Alpha is growing the fastest within the Catholic Church.

Developing a Message Strategy for Parish, School & Diocesan Initiatives☒ Fr. Dan Felton
The need is to tie the initiatives together. We have multiple languages to express what we are doing. We are looking to come up with a common language. Many of the language that we use will not communicate our values and value-add to the community in which we dwell. What we discover for the community will also help explain to those in the pews. We will be working with Karma. There will be 8 focus groups out in the field.

Bishop☒ We are going to work on a few simple messages, a kind of branding.

Feedback☒ It was a wonderful and very helpful conference at St. Bernard☒ Parish with the Millennial Event. Recommend the diocese talk with any of the speakers from that event.

Update on McCormick/Grellinger Assisted Living☒ Fr. Dan

Bishop☒ We have been struggling to keep the McCormick Home going. The Board of Trustees and Board of Directors have moved it to more of an assisted living approach. There are still needs for renovations and bring it up for the competitive market. There are a small number of priests that go there.

Fr. Dan☒ We had a Blue Ribbon Committee that looked at several things. We have 5 Catholic care facilities in the diocese. The other four are run by other religious communities. Multiple conversations have taken place.

We have reached an agreement of principles.

1. Catholic mission of healing will continue at McCormick
2. Charism for diocesan priests.
3. Cash in return.

In the past few days, we met with the McCormick board of directors and board of trustees. We will go to the College of Consultors and Finance Council this afternoon. This transfer would be ready for July 1. We have been working with communication. June 20th is the final meeting on Sponsored Ministries. This is highly confidential information today. Hope to communicate by next Tuesday. McCormick staff would be talked with on Tuesday.

Motion☒ Be it resolved that the Presbyteral Council recommend to the Bishop that Diocese of Green Bay be directed to pursue an agreement with FSCC Sponsored Ministries that would allow for the transfer of fixed assets to FSCC Sponsored Ministries. Be it further resolved that FSCC Sponsored Ministries will then own and operate McCormick Assisted Living. Motion carried unanimously.

Q & A☒ Bishop Ricken

Bishop thanked the group.

Meeting adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jami Duvall

Recording Secretary