



**Diocese of Green Bay**  
**PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 19, 2017**

**Attendees:** Bishop David Ricken, Very Reverends Daniel Felton and Thomas Long, Monsignor James Dillenburg, Reverends Robert Kabat, Richard Allen, Jason Blahnik, Thomas Reynebeau, Joel Sember and Ron Colombo

**Excused:** Reverends Timothy Shillcox, O. Praem., James P. Leary, OFM Cap, Philip Dinh-Van-Thiep and Robert Kollath

**Opening Activities**

- Meeting opened at 10:11 a.m.
- Bishop Ricken led the Council members in the Liturgy of the Hours.
- A motion was made to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
- A motion was made to approve and adopt the meeting minutes of the November 8, 2016 meeting as written. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
- Mission statement was recited by Council members.

**Bishop's Opening Comments**

Pray for Fr. Mauthe. Fr. Tom Long will be concluding his term coming up shortly.

**Holy Name Retreat House Report—Fr. Dan**

Holy Name Retreat House was sold to a group of Islanders. Money left over could possibly be used for parish retreat experiences. Holy Name Retreat House Inc. will hold onto 26 acres and remain a corporation. Note of appreciation to all of those involved including Tammy, Barb and Paul.

**Update on Priests/Report on Priests who are Ill—Fr. Tom Long**

Fr. Tom Long reported on priests and deacons who are ill or recovering from surgery.

**Update on Priest Salary & Benefits/NFPC—Fr. Tom Long**

Updates Fr. Tom Long recommending:

- Remove tax advice on the document
- Update mileage to new IRS rate of 53.5cents (changed as of January 2017)
- Have 2.5% pay increase
- Add fiscal in front of year for vacation time

The group had a discussion on whether or not the cooking verbiage should be changed or left to be relooked at in the future. A motion was made and seconded to remove tax advice on the document, update mileage rate to 53.5cents, accept 2.5% pay increase, keep the cooking verbiage as is and add fiscal in front of the year for vacation. Motion held unanimously.

**Discuss Overall Projects Timetable—Fr. Dan Felton**

The main focus is discipleship. The definition of discipleship comes from the mission and vision. Must be intentional and take our time rolling out discipleship. Have three tiers that will be going through Discipleship I, II and Alpha Small Groups:

- Tier 1: curia, pastoral leaders and priests
- Tier 2: deacons, principals, parish staff, parish leadership, religious education administration and affiliated groups

- Tier 3: parishioners, catechists and teachers

Priests, pastoral leaders and the curia have gone through Discipleship Training Seminar I and are currently going through Alpha Small Groups. Each tier helps to set up the next tier going through Discipleship and Alpha Small Groups. By 2020, tiers 1, 2, and 3 will have all gone through Discipleship I and II and Alpha Small Groups.

**Discussion on Future of Grellinger Hall**—Fr. Tom Long, Fr. Dan Felton

Fr. Dan—If we continue to operate as we are, it is not feasible. The Grellinger Blue Ribbon Committee was started to look at what the options are. The Presbyteral Council today is looking at the priest options. When we look at priest alone option, some have asked for assisted living. A survey went out to 65 and older priests. General observation, there is a lot more interest using it as an assisted living space. There currently are six Catholic assisted living options within the diocese. Today was to look at feedback.

**Report on Parish Survey**—Dr. Jamie Lynch

St. Norbert College Strategic Research Institute helped collect data from the parish survey. Dr. Jamie Lynch will go over the questionnaire. Dr. Lynch will share the raw material. We need to identify some of the points that we would like more information. We had over a 50% response rate. The Meitler study is also being done, so there is not as in-depth questions into the Catholic schools for the parish survey. There is an opportunity to do a follow-up survey to a target group(s).

Some thoughts from the discussion include:

- Distinguish between priests and other job groups
- Take priests and council members and see to what extent the two groups are in agreement or not
- Percentage to what age group fell within age 18-24

Dr. Jamie Lynch—There will be more data coming from the open-ended questions.

Bishop Ricken— Reading a book: *The One Thing* by Gary Keller. What is the one thing in doing it, that everything else becomes less important or not important? We are looking at streamlining the curia to better serve the parishes. What services do we, at the curia, need to provide parishes? What needs do the parishes have? What is one or three things we can do to help with the connection between the parishes and the curia for the sake of the mission?

**Discussion on Liturgical Commission**—Bishop Ricken

We are looking to create a Liturgical Commission to help with liturgical matters. Michael Poradek will help find 10-12 people with a mix of priests and lay individuals. This will help create a process when questions come up.

**Q & A**

A member suggested a better wellness plan.

Fr. Tom—Had a nurse as a pilot program but we need someone dedicated to that.

Fr. Dan—Wellness funding is an opportunity.

Fr. Dan—Human Resources will be updating the employee handbook.

Meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jami Rogne  
Recording Secretary