

## ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FAITH FORMATION COUNCIL MINUTES

June 20, 2019

Council Members in Attendance: Jason Collins, David Dickson, Linda Gust, Steve Hedding, Kevin MacFerrin, Molly Myers, Jason Nurre, Nicole Saegh, Mary Wieser, Alison Zirbel

Also Present: Fr Ray McHenry, Faye Akers, Christen Cota, Deb Barry, Rick Schraeger

Council Members Absent: Maureen Berger

I. Call to Order at 6:30 by Steve Hedding

II. Opening Prayer was the updated Parish Mission Prayer

III. Open Forum – Becca Bahl and Kelly Koenigs presented an update on the status of CFM. CFM has grown considerably in the last year and continues to be a strong program of family fellowship at St. Francis of Assisi. They spent the last year observing and collecting information. They propose that we cut ties with the national Christian Family Movement (CFM) organization because the organization isn't what draws people into our family fellowship groups and many of our groups are not utilizing the materials. They propose we introduce a name change (possibly to Connect Groups) which can be a place for current CFM groups to land and also for a wider audience than CFM. It wouldn't be much of a change to the current CFM groups. An approved list of materials to use will be provided to the groups.

IV. Approval of Agenda – Linda moved to approve agenda with the date change for the All Council Retreat, Dave seconded, motion passed

V. Approval of Prior Meetings' Minutes – Molly moved to approve to minutes with the change to her being listed as absent, Steve seconded, motion passed

VI. Pastoral Reports

- A. Pastoral Report – ADA is only \$25K from goal of \$366K. 722 families have participated, which is an increase from last year. Misty Hade resigned as Principal of St. Francis of Assisi School. Jon Aldrich will be the interim Principal. Security review is complete and the report has been received. A summary of the report has been published on the website. There are 39 action items which have been categorized into immediate, short term and long term. Nicole Saegh has been appointed by Fr. Ray as the 9<sup>th</sup> member of the Faith Formation Council. Fr. Trevor leaves on July 8<sup>th</sup> and Mark McGeary will begin on July 11<sup>th</sup>. Deacon Mark's ordination is Friday June 21<sup>st</sup>. Fr Ray and Fr Riccardo have been playing phone tag for an Acts 29 discussion. The objective of the phone call is for Father Ray to gain information and get a feel for whether or not Acts 29 is something he wants to pursue for St. Francis of Assisi. Acts 29 is a discipleship review not unlike the security review we just went through, but for discipleship. Fr Riccardo and a team would come to St. Francis and spend three weeks observing and then provide a plan for moving forward. A limited number of parishes will make the list for Acts 29 visits, so even if we throw our parish in for consideration, there is no certainty that we would be chosen.
- B. Pastoral Council Report – none beyond what Father shared

VII. Staff Reports

- A. Christen, YFF/FFO: There has been concerns raised by the second grade school teachers about having First Communion split between two weekends next year like it was this year. They propose that it either go back to being one weekend and not at regular weekend masses or that all of the day school children receive the Sacrament on the same weekend. The FFC proposes a conversation with the interim principal before

finalizing a decision because the preference of the Council is to integrate day school and faith formation students rather than separate. The overarching theme of the Catechist feedback is to incorporate more games, music and fun in their lesson plans. Question raised about Family Catechesis. It's only exploratory for now. Deb Barry will be leaving as High School Faith Formation Director at the of July to be the Director of Faith Formation at St. Mary's in Pella.

- B. Deb, HSFF: need more adult volunteers for the Alpha Youth course
- C. Faye, AFF: listened to an audio and discussed what's next after Alpha for the participants and how important it is to have various opportunities in place. Father James Mallon of Saint Benedict in Halifax spoke about how the web of relationships is what people come for and stay for. The Game Plan document from St. Benedict Parish lays out a view of how all of this works together for a parish. This document would be a good starting point for the FFC presentation at the All Council Retreat in August. The book Divine Renovation has been ordered for all councils and parish staff.

## VIII. New Business

### A. Subcommittee Reports –

- a. Adult Faith Formation Advisory Team (Alison, Dave, Linda and Mary)
  - i. We had our quarterly meeting with Faye and Heather on June 3<sup>rd</sup> where we discussed The Game Plan and helped them decide what studies to offer for 2019-20 with an overarching vision in mind.
  - ii. Parish Mission –Prayer is updated. We still need a Service Project (Enviroloo) team lead. Phone call with speaker Dan DeMatte went well on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Concentrating on food coordination and hospitality plans right now. Next team lead meeting scheduled for August 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - iii. Alpha –The Fall Alpha Team will be meeting on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Alpha launches for the fall on August 29<sup>th</sup> with a team training on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Registration opens on July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- b. Retreats and Missions Committee (Steve and Molly) Molly attended the Continuation Committee meeting and spoke about Alpha and Parish Mission.
- c. Fellowship and Service Committee (Jason and Maureen) no report
- d. Youth and High School Advisory Team – will be formed in September

## IX. Old Business

- A. Election of New Officers - FFC Planning Calendar: Self Evaluation of Council – Steve Hedding as Chairperson, Alison Zirbel as Vice Chairperson, Linda Gust or new Council member as Secretary. Mary Wieser withdrew her previous nomination and nominated Alison Zirbel.
- B. Welcome to our new members: Kevin MacFerrin, Jason Nurre and Nicole Saegh.
- C. Farewell to our departing members: Maureen Berger and Molly Myers.

## X. Closing Prayer

## XI. UPCOMING DATES: **Next Meeting – All Council Retreat on Sunday August 25, 2019**

## XII. Adjournment at 8:45 pm

Minutes submitted by Alison Zirbel