

**St. Francis of Assisi Faith Formation Council Minutes
September 19, 2019**

Council members present: Steve Heddinger, Alison Zirbel, David Dickson, Linda Gust, Jason Nurre, Nicole Saegh, Mary Wieser

Council members absent: Jason Collins, Kevin MacFerrin

Clergy and Staff present: Fr. Ray McHenry, Faye Akers, Christen Cota, Christy Peletz

1. Call to Order-6:29 by Steve Heddinger
2. Opening Prayer-Mission Prayer
3. Divine Renovation Discussion-Introduction: House of Cards, Christen spoke to Board of Education and Pastoral Council regarding the study of Divine Renovation by all councils to get on board with goal of transforming St. Francis into a mission parish, Faye will speak to Finance Council on Christen's behalf. Christen suggested a meeting of all councils in May, 2020, to discuss/discern implications of this book for our parish. Tom Quinlan of St. Joseph Educational Center will speak/moderate. No specific date, time or location yet.
Read Chapter 1, *House of Prayer*, pp. 13-25, look over group reading guide, pp. 5-6, and be prepared for discussion at October Faith Formation Council meeting.
4. Open Forum-Overview of FFC, Mary walked us through a slide show outlining the genesis, formation, purpose, policy, administration, roles, responsibilities, etc., of St. Francis Faith Formation Council.
5. Approval of Agenda-David moved to approve agenda, Nicole seconded, motion passed.
6. Approval of Minutes-Nicole moved to approve June minutes, Alison seconded, motion passed. Nicole moved to approve August minutes, Linda seconded, motion passed.
7. Pastoral Report-Fr. Ray reported on the following:
 1. Acts XXIX-Fr. John Riccardo will be in the Des Moines area in December and may find time to speak to Fr. Ray about bringing Acts XXIX to St. Francis.
 2. Security update-The south hallway will be locked down during school hours for preschool safety, accessible only by fob, during school hours. Armed security during school and weekend mass times are watching security monitors. Other security initiatives in progress.
 3. New diocesan campaign for Catholic school tuition scholarships is coming.
 4. Bishop ordination mass for Bishop-elect William Joensen planning continues: 150 priests, 17 bishops, and Papal Nuncio expected to attend. Lockdown after Friday morning Mass for security sweep, parish offices and school closed for the day.
 5. Chris Aldinger has resigned as Director of Operations, his duties are divided among various staff members for now. Applications and interviews to follow.
 6. Charlie Graham is new liaison from Pastoral Council for FFC, no report submitted.
8. Staff Reports-
 1. YFF/FFO Report-Questions for Christen included the following:
 1. Is there a barrier to getting an additional CGS catechist for Level 1 atrium? Getting new catechists trained is a barrier as we don't offer training unless a large enough group, and sending prospective catechists to another parish (at a cost of \$300-400) this fall would not help solve St. Francis shortage this fall. Christen didn't think the reduction in Level 1 atriums offered this fall would be a problem.
 2. Comment on catechist in-service attendance? Attendance seemed better this year. Member certification seemed to keep folks from attending in the past as it is a significant time commitment. Now new catechists complete full certification and returning catechists complete 'make-up' session which is fewer hours.
 3. Why are enrollment numbers off compared to last year? Christen says this reflects cultural trends, with fewer families attending church in general, hence fewer children in YFF programs.

YFF/FFO Report highlights: Christen scheduled for surgery next week and will be away from St. Francis up to 6 weeks. **Please keep Christen and her family in your prayers.** Faye is covering the bulk of Christen's responsibilities, with other FFO staff helping. FFO is considering offering the same YFF tuition discount currently offered to full-time St. Francis employees to part time staff and teacher aides. A concerned parishioner (Nicole Saegh) asked about facilitating the Great Adventure Bible Study for Kids on Sundays after 9:30 Mass for grades 4-8. Nicole needs to find a co-facilitator. Need to set dates, find space (possibly youth room), create marketing and sign-ups. Would not begin until January, with last of 16 sessions occurring before end of school year in May of 2020. Alison moved to approve youth bible study, David seconded, motion passed.

2. HSFF Report-Christy Peletz introduced herself to FFC-welcome, Christy! Decision to not hold Alpha for youth was made prior to Christy getting hired, we are following the Life Teen model this academic year for FISH. 2019 Confirmation Retreat and Masses are being planned. 2020 Confirmation registration is still open.

3. AFF Report-15 women went through CRHP last weekend, and currently 11 men are signed up for the men's weekend. Formed has updated their website and app. In order to update the app on a mobile device, one must log out of the app, then update the app, then log back in to access new features on the app. **Help is needed for coffee and donuts after 8:00 and 9:30 Masses on December 15.** New members and current FFC members make up the Adult Faith Formation Advisory Team, first meeting went well.

9. New Business-

Subcommittee Reports-

AFF Advisory-met in September with new membership.

Parish Mission-next team meeting September 23 at 6:30. Reverse collection at Masses this weekend for postcards for parishioners to share with others. All teams making progress. Mission subcommittee will remain to begin planning for next mission in 2021.

Alpha-going great, most participants are Catholic. Plans under way for Winter course starting in January and plans for next fall, too.

Retreats/CRHP-See above AFF report

New Subcommittee creation and assignments-

Fellowship/Service-as this team never really got off the ground and seemed to duplicate what the Pastoral Council does, this subcommittee has been nixed.

YFF Advisory-Nicole volunteered to sit on this subcommittee, but any planning/meeting/member recruiting will have to wait until after Christen's return from leave.

FFC Volunteer Point Person-if viable, this may need a better name, but the idea is to have one FFC member coordinate FFC member volunteers, when needed, for such things as coffee and donuts, YFF meet and greet, and pulpit talks, so FF staff don't need to do this. Linda volunteered to do this.

10. Old Business-none

11. Chairman Report-

FFC Coffee and Donuts December 15 after 8:00 and 9:30 Mass

March FFC meeting moved to March 26, 2020, due to Spring Break

FrancisFest October 6

Next meeting October 17, 2019, at 6:30 pm

12. Closing Prayer-St. Francis Prayer for Peace

13. Adjourn 8:36 pm

Please note action items, in bold text, for Council members and/or staff before next month's meeting.