

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FAITH FORMATION COUNCIL MINUTES

January 17, 2019

Council Members in Attendance: Jason Collins, David Dickson, Steve Hedding, Linda Gust, Mary Wieser, Alison Zirbel

Also Present: Faye Akers, Deb Barry, Christen Cota

Council Members Absent: Maureen Berger, Molly Myers

Others Absent: Father Ray, Rick Schraeger

I. Call to Order at 6:32 by Jason Collins

II. Opening Prayer was the updated Parish Mission Prayer led by Jason Collins

III. Open Forum – N/A

IV. Approval of Agenda – Mary moved to approve with amended portion to include tri-council meeting, Linda seconded, motion passed

V. Approval of Prior Meetings' Minutes – Steve moved to approve, Linda seconded, motion passed

VI. Pastoral Reports

- A. Pastoral Report – absent
- B. Pastoral Council Report – absent

VII. Staff Reports

- A. Christen, YFF/FFO: VBS plans are already under way. They are exploring a day and evening option rather than just daytime. That would mean shortening the program to four days rather than five. Our new VBS leaders are doing awesome and way ahead of schedule. There was a typo to the report about Movie Night. It was attended by 70 kids and 30 adults not the other way around. There is a catechist shortage due to health reasons. If we can't fill the vacancies, classes will combine. Question raised about specials. Last year there were specials during YFF classes that included storytime and music. That hasn't happened yet for this year. When asked what the Catechists think about it, she said they miss it. Christen said it didn't work out this year, but she hopes to bring it back next year. If it comes back, music is a harder volunteer position to fill and it will probably only be for K-2. Storytime is easier to fill and all K-5 ages all enjoy that special. Addition to her report is the Special Needs Ministry is offering a sign language course after 9:30 mass on January 27th. Families are welcome. The focus will be on the signs used during Mass.
- B. Deb, HSFF: invited us all to attend the January 30th FISH skating event. Comment was raised to start thinking of students that can assist with Alpha in the capacity of music or hospitality.
- C. Faye, AFF: spoke about the Rethink Poverty Simulation being offered on February 28th. Encourage all to attend. Max will be 80 people. It ties well with the youth Hunger Simulation event happening during Lent. An additional session of Mens Faith Sharing will begin. The gentleman who was interested in starting it found a co-facilitator, so now they need to decide on a time when space is available.

VIII. New Business

- A. Subcommittee Reports –
 - a. Adult Faith Formation Advisory Team (Alison, Dave, Linda and Mary)
 - i. Alison reported on Parish Mission – Dan DeMatte sent a contract. They dates have been finalized and are on the Parish calendar for October 13th-15th. Alison and Mary went to the January Pastoral Council meeting before finalizing dates and to discuss possible

collaboration of efforts with FrancisFest. The Pastoral Council decided not to combine efforts at this time, but maybe in the future. Mary Wieser will contact the St. Francis of Assisi principal to discuss Parish Mission plans and how the school might want to utilize Dan's time. We will also gather feedback from the Faith Formation and Parish Staff for the same purpose.

- ii. Mary and Alison reported on Alpha – After the Council and Father's approval to move forward with Alpha, we met with Amy Thorson, the Iowa Alpha Director and an Alpha Launch Team has been assembled. We also met with Faye regarding budget and space. The Launch Team will be attending an Alpha Training Session on January 22nd. The team will also be participating in the Alpha program as they prepare for the parish-wide launch in August 2019. Proposed dates are Come and See/Movie Night on August 24th, sessions 2-7 on August 29th, September 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th and October 3rd, sessions 8-11 at the retreat on October 19th, sessions 12-15 on October 24th, 31st, November 7th and 14th. Proposed size and space is 60 people in the Serra Room. We will meet with Father for approval on the dates and details.
 - iii. Mary reported on Apologetics Series – still waiting to meet with Father Ludwig to get this planning underway.
- b. Retreats and Missions Committee (Steve and Molly)
 - i. Steve reported that he spoke with Father briefly about CRHP. Steve will be a guest at the CRHP Leadership Dinner on February 17th.
 - c. Fellowship and Service Committee (Jason and Maureen) Jason reported that he and Maureen met. They would like to grow the committee and they need to meet with the Parish Life Committee. They discussed that one opportunity is getting the word out about events already being offered. They see a need for better communications.
- B. Review of Faith Formation Office (FFO) Quarterly Planning Meeting – the regular meetings are going well. There is a lot more collaboration within the Faith Formation office.
 - C. Youth and High School Faith Formation Advisory Team – Christen is open to the idea. Discussion among the group about how well it's working for the Adult Faith Advisory Team and about when to roll it out. Christen and Deb will meet to discuss the framework and timing. Christen thinks it would be good to put it as a volunteer opportunity in the online registration for High School and Youth Faith Formation for the 2019-20 school year. Mary made a motion to implement a Youth and High School Faith Formation Advisory Team with input from the Directors. Linda seconded. Motion passed. It will be added to the Subcommittee reports on future agendas.
 - D. Tri-council Fall Meeting – Jason reported that he and Steve as chair and vice-chair will be attending quarterly meetings with the chairs and vice-chairs of the other Councils of St. Francis. At their first meeting, it was decided the theme for the upcoming year is Evangelization. The Councils will come together to decide a theme each year. Discernment for the Councils will begin at the end of March. Three spots will be filled for Pastoral and Faith Formation Councils and four spots for Board of Education. An information meeting will be held on March 31st and discernment will be April 7th. New members will attend the May Council meeting and be installed in June. All councils will take July off. Christen offered to send a blast to families in the Faith Formation programs about the discernment.

IX. Old Business

- A. FFC Planning Calendar: Awareness of Budget by FFC – Christen met with Chris Aldinger, will meet again next week to finalize what to submit to Pastoral Council.

- B. FFC Planning Calendar: Evaluation input – Christen will be having annual evaluations with Faith Formation staff for the first time. Directors are hoping to get evaluations as well. Question raised about up to date job descriptions. They are still in progress. Christen is trimming the descriptions at the request of HR. Her goal is to be done by next week.

X. Concluding Comments

XI. Closing Prayer

XII. UPCOMING DATES: Next Meeting – February 21, 2019 – Please make note that the March and April meetings will be on March 28, 2019 and April 25, 2019 because of Spring Break and Holy Thursday.

XII. Adjournment at 8:36 pm

Minutes submitted by Alison Zirbel