

St. John the Evangelist Parish

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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Fr. Michael Williams – Pastor – ex officio
Myron McCormick – Finance – ex officio
Rachel Charette – St. John's

Marie Bardswich – St. John's
Sue Quackenbush – St. John's
Trudy Hinds – St. Bernardine's

Minutes

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 @7pm in the Board Room

Our PPC met on December 12th and discussed the following pastoral issues:

OLD BUSINESS:

- (1) Accessibility to our building – An update on our accessibility project;
- (2) 5 Year Pastoral Plan – Youth Ministry/Nithin Sunny – an update;
- (3) Evangelization – Baptism Preparation – A proposal to join with St. Andrew the Apostle.

ONGOING BUSINESS: Parish Financial Update

Re: (1) The project is well underway, and we are into our second month of construction. Completion is estimated to be in January. There is, however, a cost overrun in the amount of **\$40,200.00**. This is attributed to 3 areas.

1. In the absence of Church diagrams, the contractor estimated the footings of the Church to be at a normal 6' depth. They are actually 9', which required a lot more digging, concrete and backfill in order to tie the structure into the Church footings. Cost: **\$4,200.00**.
2. After the project began, we requested that the top landing be rebuilt, elevated and enlarged. This request was made because (a) the concrete is deteriorating and would have to be repaired in the next few years anyway and (b) we wanted a larger top landing that was flush with the threshold of the Church for practical and safety reasons. Cost: **\$7,300.00**.
3. The initial quote was based on a conceptual design that the engineer would not approve due to Building Code regulations. Although not technically a "handicap ramp", it still needed to be engineered as if it were. This required a much longer ramp and, therefore, a lot more concrete, a longer period of construction and, most significantly, a much longer handrail. Cost: **\$26,000.00**.
The additional costs also include: Reworking the current handrail to bring it up to Code (**\$1,100**), and the cost of re-engineering (**\$1,600**).

After all is said and done, we will have a safer, more accessible Church, and we will still have about \$170,000 in our reserve funds.

Re: (2) Unfortunately, no youth attended Nithin Sunny's first Youth Group Meeting on December 5th. Although we are not happy about this, it was agreed from the beginning that the cost of running this program was worth it, compared to not attempting to do anything for our youth. The turnout at St. Andrew's was also very low – just 4 kids. In conversation with Fr. Sam at St. Andrew's, Fr. Michael reported that we are committed to a minimum of three months of running the Youth Group under Sunny. We figured that was a reasonable length of time to determine if continuing was worthwhile.

Meanwhile, it is worth noting the successful involvement of youth in various Parish Ministries, including Lectors, Hospitality and Music. Such involvement is to be encouraged and supported by every means possible (without being critical of mistakes, appearances, or other such superficial things). This approach is known as Comprehensive Youth Ministry.

Re: (3) Given the low number of requests for Baptism in our 2 Parishes (just 3 total this year), Fr. Michael proposed that instead of creating a Baptism Preparation Program here which was compliant with the new policy of the Diocese, we join with St. Andrew the Apostle Church whenever we have families to prepare. PPC was unanimous in its support of this proposal, and several members indicated an interest in being a part of those sessions where we have families in attendance.

Parish Financial Update: Fr. Michael has appointed Dion Dumontelle to the Parish Finance Committee, which now consists of 3 members (also Myron and Fr. Michael).

Myron distributed a spreadsheet showing the Parish revenues and expenditures for the first 11 months of this year, with a month by month comparison, as well as a comparison to our annual budgeted amounts. He also distributed a chart comparing the Weekly Sunday Mass attendance over the last 5 years, with a view to showing a correlation between those numbers and financial contributions. We will continue to track those numbers going forward, as it's not always obvious why the numbers do not correlate.

Fr. Michael will be sending a package out next year to all parishioners enrolled in the Pre-authorized Deduction Program, with the new forms enclosed. They will be invited – if they wish – to reconsider their donations and allocations (special collections have changed over the years).

Note to PPC: The number of Parishioners currently using the PADP is 41.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fr. Michael reminded the members of PPC of the critical role they play in working with him to ensure the best pastoral practices for ministering to the people of our Parishes. Feedback is always helpful, in terms of Liturgies (scheduling), celebrations, parish events, programs, or anything else that impacts the way we minister. He doesn't always get the necessary feedback from parishioners, so PPC members can help pass along anything that might be constructively addressed.

The meeting ended at 8:45pm.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 13th at 7pm.