

NATIVITY PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday – November 24, 2009

6:30 P.M. – Nazareth Room

At 6:33 p.m., Vice Chair Greg Schmalz led the Pastoral Council in Opening Prayer and called the meeting to order, pursuant to notice.

Council Members Present:

Fr. Kevin Boucher, Duane Koble, Terri Dahl, Bonnie Faller, Betty Hund, Ken Jablonsky, Brenda Lang, Joe Miranowski, Bev Nesler, Greg Schmalz, Ed Schwind, Kevin Wolf

Council Members Absent:

Fr. Gary Luiten, Chenise Nesler, Leon Senn, Joel Simons, Corporate Secretary Mykal Nester and Corporate Treasurer Michael O'Leary

Minutes from the 10/27/2009 Parish Council meeting were provided prior to the meeting and accepted by unanimous consensus.

Old Business

Nativity Anew II/ Capital Campaign Project – Fr. Kevin had no report. Tabled for future meeting.

Nativity Long Range Plan – Fr. Kevin had no report. Tabled for future meeting.

New Business

Article Discussion – "Examination of Conscience" by Dan Schutte - Duane Koble asked the council members to discuss the questions in the article with the person next to them; and then the members shared their thoughts with the group. The article encourages a daily ritual of "examination of conscience" to be more aware of God's presence in our lives. "Our faith is a real, living, growing relationship with Jesus."

The Council assembled for Evening Prayer that was held in the Chapel from 7:00-7:30 p.m.

First Reading of Revisions to By-Laws

Leon Senn, Greg Schmalz, Duane Koble and Brenda Lang had met earlier this month to review and revise the current By-Laws and Constitution of the Church of the Nativity.

Vice Chair Greg Schmalz conducted the First Reading of the recommended amendments as summarized below:

1. **Article I-Section 2(a) & 2(b):** Revised language-Youth member *may* be chosen, instead of *shall*; and change the minimum age from 14 to 16 in Section 2(a).
2. **Article I:** Added a "Section 5" to define that members who have completed two consecutive terms are not eligible to serve on the Council for one full calendar year.
Article I-Section 6 – Removed the language "at large".
3. **Article II-Heading and Section 1:** Deleted the word "Nomination" and replaced with "Discernment".
4. **Article II-Section 1:** Removed the language "at the August meeting" and replaced with "in the spring".
5. **Article II-Section 1: Revised (a), (b) and (c) to read as follows and added (d):**
 - (a) Plan a discernment process involving the entire parish at a Sunday Liturgy.
 - (b) Coordinate the discernment process with all parish commissions, committees and councils.
 - (c) Contact all interested parishioners to ascertain their willingness to serve on the Council and in addition, to participate in an orientation session and discernment process.

- (d) The Pastor, the Chairperson and the Discernment Committee shall plan the orientation session and facilitate the discernment process.
6. **Article II-Section 3(8) and Article V-Section 1(f) & Section 2(8):** Added “Finance” to the portfolio, i.e. Stewardship/Finance Council (Trustee).
 7. **Article II:** Added a “Section 5” that outlines the council members’ duties regarding procedures for submitting reports for meetings; and to notify all members, especially the Recording Secretary and Chairperson, if unable to attend a meeting.
 8. **Revised language** throughout the By-Laws to read as “Councils, Commissions and Committees”.
 9. **Article IV-Section 4:** Changed “selection of officers” to “discernment of officers”.
 10. **Article IV-Section 6:** Added language to the last sentence “...and upon prior written notice to the Director of Administration”.
 11. **Article VI-Section 1 and throughout Section 2:** Added the word “Pastoral” before the word “Council”.
 12. **Article VI-Section 2(a):** Retain the wording at the end of the sentence “and Parish Meetings”.
 13. **Article VI-Section 2:** Added 2(i) to include an additional duty for the Recording Secretary to, “Annually file Pastoral Council records to the parish through the Director of Administration”.
 14. **Grammatical revisions** throughout the By-Laws.

First Reading of Revisions to Constitution – Greg Schmalz also conducted the First Reading of the recommended amendments as summarized below:

1. **Changed the Heading** to read the legal name as: Constitution of the Nativity Church of Fargo...Pastoral Council.
2. **Article I and IV-Section 1:** Amended to read as the legal name of “Nativity Church of Fargo”.
3. **Article III and IX:** Revised language to read as “Councils, Commissions and Committees”.
4. **Article IV-Section 2:** Added Recording Secretary as an ex-officio member: added “Parochial Vicar”; and revised the appointment of lay trustees from the Bishop of the Diocese to the Pastor.
5. **Article IV-Section 4:** Changed “Special Elective Members” to “Special Designated Members” to agree with the By-Laws.
6. **Grammatical revisions** throughout the Constitution.

Review Open Positions on Pastoral Council

Council members who will have served their two 3-year terms by the end of December 2009 include Terri Dahl, Kevin Wolf, and Bev Nesler. Joel Simons discerned to **not** continue as an At Large Member on the Pastoral Council for 2010. Therefore, there are four positions open on the Pastoral Council.

- Clarified that the two (2) Special Elective Positions are **not** to be counted in the minimum total of 11 members who serve on the Pastoral Council per Article IV. Section 1 of the Constitution. Recording Secretary Brenda Lang will correct the Membership List to reflect this.
- Per the By-Laws, the Staff Representative is to be a non-ordained person. The Director of Administration would meet this requirement until the Staff discerns another person to fill this Special Elective Position.

- Laura Alderman had contacted the Recording Secretary and verified that she had discerned to fill the FCSN liaison that Kevin Wolf will be vacating.
- Bev Nesler will work with the Youth Minister, Jordan Buchhorn, to find a parent of the youth to fill the open Youth Ministry Liaison position on the Pastoral Council.
- Terri Dahl will speak with the members of the Liturgical Commission to find someone to serve as Liaison to the Pastoral Council.
- Joel Simons' open position as an "At Large Member" will need to be filled for the Pastoral Council to meet the minimum number of members as per the Constitution.
- All other Council Members discerned to remain in their current liaison/at large positions.

In summary, the open Liaison Positions yet to be filled on the Pastoral Council to meet the minimum of 11 members are:

- (1) Liturgical Commission
- (2) Youth Ministry
- (3) At Large Member

Pastor's Comments

Fr. Kevin handed out his report.

- Fr. Chad Wilhelm is the new priest Representative on the FCSN Board.
- He continues to meet monthly with five Nativity couples and two other couples for Teams of Our Lady, a married couple spiritual support group.
- Archbishop Hughes presented at the Presbyterian Days that Fr. Kevin and Fr. Gary attended in October. Fr. Kevin incorporates what he heard into his November annual retreat.
- Fr. Kevin was manager of the Priests' Credit Union for 14 years. He recently transferred all records to the Catholic Aid Association Credit Union.
- Fr. Kevin has been coordinating and scheduling music and musicians. All staff members have taken on additional duties while the search continues to fill the Music & Liturgy Coordinator position.
- Anointed 300 people in the parish and nursing homes in November.
- The pager has been busy in November, as well as requests for spiritual counsel.

Associate Pastor's Report

Fr. Gary was absent, but had provided his report by e-mail that outlined his portfolio activities.

Stewardship Council Report

Although absent, Corporate Lay Secretary Mykal Nester had also provided her report by e-mail. Duane reported on her behalf that there are two months left to make up the budget deficit. Year-to-date budget as of 10/31/2009 reflects a loss of (\$74,437). Offertory income is 10% under budget; but expenses are also under by 8.53%.

Director of Administration's Report

Duane Koble noted the following from his report that was e-mailed prior to the meeting:

- He complimented Kevin Wolf and Laney's for the work on the sewer repair project. His report outlined in more detail the various campus maintenance activities; i.e. plumbing in the 1960 part of the campus, updating restrooms, replacement of lights in worship space, and boiler & electrical maintenance issues.

- This year will be the 40th Anniversary for the Nativity/Olivet Christmas Party. Angie Olson and Amy O'Connor have volunteered to minister as Chair and Chair-in-Training respectively. A Vice Chair is still needed.
- The youth will be traveling to Belcourt, North Dakota for their summer mission trip.

Duane thanked the entire council for their parish ministry.

Committee & Commission Reports

Buildings & Grounds Committee – Liaison Bonnie Faller had no report, but expressed a debt of gratitude to the Knights of Columbus for the large planters in the courtyard.

Duane Koble also acknowledged the various ministries that the Knights of Columbus provide to the parish and community. Recording Secretary Brenda Lang will send a note to express the Pastoral Council's thanks for their service to Nativity.

Deanery Representative – Jean Hannig did not provide a report this month.

FCSN – Liaison Kevin Wolf said that the FCSN had met later in the month, so he did not have a written report ready for the council meeting. The FCSN has continued to work on policy & strategic planning. The campus is vibrant with a lot going on spiritually and community wise; i.e. students have been active in helping to "Fill the Dome" with canned food. Kevin Wolf stated that he serves on the board for the Dorothy Day House and noted that requests for food have been huge at this time.

Health Advisory Commission – Betty Hund had nothing new to add to her report, which included; Hope Mathern's request to conduct a Parish Needs Assessment for her Doctorate Degree for Family Nurse Practitioner. The survey was done November 7th and she will share the results with the Health Advisory Commission.

Sr. Sharon Houle and Peter Moynihan have discerned to serve on this commission.

Upcoming Brunch & Learn topic for 01/23/2010 is "Someone turn the light back on: Moving from awareness to acceptance in children's mental health" by Deborah Jendro.

Liturgical Commission – Liaison Terri Dahl reported they did not meet because of interviewing for the Music & Liturgy Coordinator position.

Parish Faith Life Commission – Liaison Joe Miranowski had no report since the commission had not met in November.

Social Justice Commission – Liaison Ken Jablonsky reported that clean-up day was postponed due to rain.

Youth Ministry – Liaison Chenise Nesler was absent and did not have a report.

Other Business

- Fr. Kevin reported that the time for the three morning Masses would remain as is for one year. With the lower attendance at the 9:15 a.m. Mass and less time needed for communion without the cup, there is not an issue of congestion between the 9:15 and 10:45 Masses as in the past.
- Fr. Kevin noted that the cup would be reinstated after the first of the year.
- The 12:15 a.m. Mass will continue through Memorial Day; and then will be discontinued.
- Mass attendance has been 500 people less per weekend. Factors that may be affecting attendance include parishioners moving to another parish, moving out of Fargo, and empty nesters who no longer attend Mass. New registrations to the parish continue; but for whatever reason, fewer people are attending Mass. The medium parishioner's age is 35 years old.

Announcements

Vice Chair Greg Schmalz asked if someone would volunteer to host the Christmas Social at a date yet to be determined. Leon Senn had told Greg Schmalz that his schedule would make it difficult for he and Laurie to host the social. No one volunteered at this time; therefore, Recording Secretary Brenda Lang will send an e-mail requesting if someone would open their home for the Christmas Social.

There being no further business, Vice Chair Greg Schmalz led the Council in closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lang

Recording Secretary