

Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting
March 2, 2016

Attendees:

Father Roger
Lou Hinds (Chairman)
Kathy Greene (Co-Chair)
Ben Gutierrez
Jack Pierson
Joanne Boyko
Peter Regan for the Renovation Committee
Christine Waldenmaier (taking minutes)

Opening Prayer: All joined in the opening prayer lead by Lou Hinds.

Approval of the minutes – Kathy Greene moved to accept the minutes from the January meeting. Jack Pierson seconded the motion. All voted in favor of approving the minutes.

Lou Hinds

Lou announced that we are moving forward as a Parish. Lou asked Peter Regan to update us on the Living Our Mission program and the Land Sale.

Land Sale – We are still waiting for a check. We are expecting \$125,000. Nick Klein is our attorney and thinks that we will eventually get the money, but that we might have to be patient. All the papers are signed and the settlement sheet is finished. We are just waiting for the money.

Living our Mission – There are a lot of people working on this. They are inviting people to “leadership” meetings with Fr. Roger and/or John French. Packets will go out which include the parish personalized brochure along with the “Living our Mission” brochure and pledge cards. The first four weeks is the organizing phase, the second 4 weeks the engagement phase, the third four weeks is the leadership phase and the last 8 weeks the participation phase. At this time it is going as planned in accordance to the schedule.

Peter commented that the church renovation is a major part of “Living our Mission”. Peter said that there might be a disconnect between the parishioners who desire to donate directly to church renovation and who instead are being urged to give to the “Living our Mission” campaign. Peter suggested that we answer questions at Masses after Easter from parishioners about this. Peter asked that the leadership personnel from the ministries express enthusiasm about our planned changes.

Ben Gutierrez said that there is also some confusion in regards to the Living Our Mission appeal in the Hispanic community. As a fundraiser for church renovations the Hispanic community will be doing a Lenten Retreat this coming Sunday (March 6) at Metompkin Elementary School from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. They will charge an admission fee (\$10.00/person) and they will also sell food – lunch for \$7.00 and

snacks for kids. If it goes well they will repeat this type of fundraiser. Ben agreed that it is hard to explain to parishioners who are excited about raising money to renovate the Church that part of that money needs to be given to the Living our Mission campaign. Peter offered to help to try to explain with Ben's help the Living our Mission campaign to the Spanish speaking parishioners.

Church Renovation – Peter commented that he has spoken with several contractors. Deacon Paul from the Diocese is coming with another contractor this Friday. Peter said that the Diocese is very interested in this project. All the contractors are extremely busy so it may be hard to get local contractors but we are working on that at this time. Peter announced that it is time for everybody to get on board.

Parking Lot – Lou Hinds

After the last Parish Council meeting there was some question as to when we would need a bio-retention pond? It was decided that we would meet with Accomack County permitting officials to firm up the plans for this pond. Charlie Schmidt arranged a meeting with Karl Mertig who is an engineer on retainer for Accomack County and Kimya Barrett, Environmental Program Administer for the County. Karl Mertig suggested we cancel the current project and keep the area disturbed for the parking lot under 10,000 sq. ft. If we comply with this, we will not need any County permit. Kimya Barrett has now cancelled the project. It will cost \$250.00 for the County to affirm that it is under 10,000 sq. ft. disturbed. Peter Regan commented that it is estimated that the improved parking lot will cost about \$100,000 and that would include the lighting.

Hispanic Ministries report – Ben Gutierrez

The Hispanic community will be doing a Living Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, March 25th at 4 or 5 pm.

Jack Pierson asked Ben if the Suarez family who lost their house to fire would like to appeal to the Knights of Columbus for a grant. He told us that the Knights have money for these sorts of emergencies. Ben said that he would tell the family about this opportunity.

Spring Clean-up – Lou Hinds asked Ben if we could schedule a light Spring cleanup for March 19th? Ben asked if we could do it at 6 am? Everyone agreed that they could come and get done early – starting at 7 am. Lou asked Joanne to announce this in the upcoming bulletin.

Items of Importance – Fr. Roger

On March 21st there will be a Chrism Mass in Richmond at 6 pm where the priests renew their vows. He asked anyone who wished to attend to please come. Lou Hinds offered to take anyone who wants to ride with him. Fr. Mike from Chincoteague may send a group to join us. Lou Hinds said that you need to get there early if you want to sit together as a group. After discussion they decided to leave here at 2 pm.

Fr. Roger will be taking his annual vacation starting May 16th to June 22nd and he will be going to the Philippines. Fr. Mike Imperial will be available for emergencies. It is still to be determined who will be doing the weekend Masses during this time.

Fr. Roger said that asking for money for both our Church expansion and the Living Our mission campaign is difficult, but with the help of the Holy Spirit we should try to reach our goal from the Living our Mission campaign. We must be firm in encouraging our parishioners to rise to this challenge and to reach this goal. We must continue praying for this goal.

Pastoral Council Member vacancy – John Tyson recently resigned from the Pastoral Council and Lou Hinds made a motion that approved Christine Waldenmaier to fill in as a temporary Pastoral Council member until we find a way to replace John Tyson. Currently Christine Waldenmaier is a non-voting participant taking minutes at the meetings. Jack Pierson seconded the motion. All council members voted in favor. This brings the Parish Council back to a full six members.

Peter Regan pointed out that the Parish Council used to have 9 members, but that Fr. Rod changed it to 6 members and Fr. Lito continued with 6 members.

Other Business

Joanne Boyko asked everyone to tell the heads of all the ministries – if the lights are off and the parking lot is empty – do not rattle the door. It sets off the alarm and she has to come here to turn off the alarm. This happened this past Sunday night. She received a call after the alarm went off and had to come and shut it off. If she is not home the police get a call and if they keep getting these calls we may get fined.

At this time there are many persons with a key for the Religious Education Building. Fr. Roger is attempting to ask everyone to be responsible and asked that no one lend a key out. There is also a sign-in form in the building and Fr. will now be periodically checking to see if this form is filled out. If these instructions are not followed, the locks will be changed and only 4 persons will have a key in the future.

Ben Gutierrez asked if we are going to replace our current custodian? Fr. Roger said that Steve Bundick will be doing the custodial job in the future.

April 13th is the next Pastoral Council meeting.

Closing Prayer was led by Fr. Roger.