



St. James Parish Pastoral Council Minutes from September 13, 2016

All Council members attended.

- Fr. Martin
- Fr. Shayne
- Sister Marie Hannah
- Mike Biggs: Chair, Vision 2020
- Ron Bryan: Social Concerns
- Bill Clark: Finance and Administration
- Geoff Clark: Parish Voice
- Lou Edmondson: Chair, Saint James Parish Pastoral Council
- Paula Knowles: Stewardship
- Jeff Lanz: Worship
- Jennifer Moran: Director of Mission Advancement
- Coty Oropilla: School Board-Parish Liaison
- Cheri Ellis-Reeves, Secretary, Saint James Parish Pastoral Council
- Stacia Reynolds: Parish Life
- Val Stokan: Faith Formation

Also in attendance: Lois Shinkle (parishioner) and Rita Jenkins (widow of Deacon Jay Jenkins and a member of Christ Episcopal Church).

Father Martin began the meeting with a scripture reading and time for reflection.

Topic: Covenant Ministry.

Lou Edmondson introduced Rita and Lois to the Council. Rita and Lois told the Council they wanted to discuss the Covenant Ministry of St. James, Christ Episcopal and First Lutheran Church in Elizabethtown. Father John T. Spalding signed the Covenant June 6, 1976, at Saint James. At the time, the Archdiocese of Louisville had nine (9) churches entering into covenants. Saint James was the only church in the Diocese outside of Louisville to do so. On November 6, First Lutheran Church became a *sister parish* when they signed the covenant. Rita said that back 40 years ago Father Spalding blessed their palms at Christ Episcopal when they did not have anyone else to do so. The covenant's goal was to celebrate what we believe in common and work on the things we don't. The covenant was suspended when a rift at one of the churches caused a split.

Lois and Rita asked that we consider renewing the covenant. If approved, she would like to have a place on the Stewardship forms for sign-ups to form a committee.

Lou and the Council thanked Rita and Lois for coming and said we would discuss it in a near-future Council meeting.



Prior to the September 13 meeting, each Parish Pastoral Chair met with his/her subcommittees to understand what is working well, not working well and how the Council could best assist them in their meaningful work. The Pastoral Parish Council was asked to listen to the reports and not “problem-solve” or discuss in-depth recommendations at this meeting. Rather, the purpose of this meeting was to listen through the results of the subcommittee meetings. Following all nine committee reports, the Council will prioritize committee concerns for recommendations and resolutions.

Committee Reports (3 of 9). The remaining six reports are scheduled for September 22, 2016.

Faith Formation - Val Stokan. Twenty-three subcommittee representatives attended the Faith Formation meeting. They discussed needs and concerns all done in a positive and energetic manner.

Discussion Points:

1. **ACTS.** Starting a new committee called *A Catholic Through Service (ACTS)* program. ACTS would include newly wedded, engaged, Christ-centered people. The impetus is to have an outreach program that will be fun and offer a service through faith. Angela Hobbs and Michelle Berger offered to chair the committee.
2. Val stated that committees require more advertising. The Faith Formation subcommittees discussed possibly starting a divorced Catholic group. The recommendation was made to list actions (first to last), and to identify strengths and weaknesses, and financial and time restraints. Mike Biggs and Jennifer Moran will work with Angela Hobbs to come up with new initiatives to offer people. Bill Clark congratulated Val on a great start in that they already have a name and mission.
3. **Full-Time Youth Minister.** Several people expressed the need for a full time Youth Minister. Many felt Saint James is losing its youth and missing out of Archdiocese programs like CLI. Val said that Olivia was at this meeting. It was fully agreed upon that Olivia does a good job as our current Youth Minister but her time is limited because she is also a full-time teacher at Saint James School. Others at the meeting felt the R.E. children are missing out. Father Shayne stated that he felt that Olivia serves the youth ministry well. Cheri Ellis-Reeves stated that the retreats were always a good experience. The most recent Confirmation retreat was a large success.
4. **More Committee Advertisement and Communication.** Father Martin said that the Holy Spirit was moving the people in the committee to create new ministries. And those programs, not the person is to be looked at. Some stated a need for retreats for mothers and fathers. Paula Knowles questioned how to get more men involved. Bill says we need to look in the direction of the youth. “Our children are involved in a lot, but we compete with other activities. If we can get men and women involved in their faith experience, their children will follow from example.”



Finance/Administration Committee – Bill Clark.

Discussion Points:

1. **Cemetery Committee.** Bill said that the Cemetery Committee, chaired by Danny Pawley, meets about twice a year. Saint James Cemetery has opened a new section with enough plots to last 100 years. The Stations of the Cross are a planned addition along with landscaping and benches.
2. **Landscape Committee.** The Landscape Committee is in desperate need of volunteers. People who signed up as part of Stewardship are not showing up.
3. **Office Volunteers.** Mike Biggs and Jennifer Moran oversee this. Everything is going well.
4. **Finance Council.** The Finance Council is working on critical issues and will soon bring recommendations to the Parish Council.
 - a. **The Convent.** The bids to build the convent are twice the amount that were first considered. John Duplessis and Joe Prather are working to bring the bids down. The convent should be listed as a residential home instead of business dwelling. Saint James received the second check from a bequeath for \$964,000 to build the convent.
 - b. **School Debt.** The school debt is a little over \$7.0M. It was never renewed on the Capital Campaign. Currently, there are enough dollars in the building fund to pay interest for six months. In collaboration with the Finance Council, Stewardship Committee, the Parish Pastoral Council will develop recommendations to present to Father Martin regarding debt reduction.

Ron asked the Council if they thought parishioners may be withholding financial resources because they oppose another capital campaign to build a new church in 2020. It was stated that Tithing is still important to help with the day-to-day cost and help fund ministries that are in place.

Parish Life - Stacia Reynolds.

Discussion Points:

1. **Bereavement Committee.** There are no concerns for the Bereavement Committee.
2. **Saint James Playgroup.** The Playgroup has small attendance. It offers a positive environment and a relaxed place for Moms. To increase attendance, it was suggested that they announce the Playgroup at Baptism preparation. Father Shayne suggested that it's good to ask *one-on-one* possibly at the preschool line when students are dropped off or picked up.
3. **Cultural Diversity.** Jean Dudgeon has successfully chaired the Cultural Diversity Committee for a long time. Jean would prefer someone else take it over and offer fresh ideas. The biggest event that committee does is the Epiphany Mass. Participants dress up "culturally" and share a potluck meal after Mass.
4. **Forever Young Group.** This group is active. There was a conflict regarding the Rodney Thomas room availability but that was resolved. This group is a wealth of knowledge and a potential resource if connected to youth.
5. **Health and Wellness Committee.** Jennifer Belt is the new chairperson Jennifer Belt. The former chair moved taking most of the information Jennifer needs. Jennifer said once she gets the notes she will have a better knowledge of what works well and what needs improving.



6. The Daniel Plan is a 6-week course that Coty Oropilla said is a good concept. Coty said that possibly simple activities like biking or a run would serve this committee well.
7. **Rosary Guild. The Rosary Guild formerly chaired by Bob O'Brien** distributed 38,000 Rosaries last year. There is concern that the committee is in need of new membership so the ministry is carried forward. The suggestion was made to ask volunteers directly to get new members.

Father Shayne closed the meeting with a prayer.

The Parish Pastoral Council reconvenes on September 22, 2016.