

*Inspired by the Holy Spirit we are a Eucharistic community called by God
to share the love of Jesus Christ
and create a welcoming parish of renewal and mission.*

**Holy Spirit Parish
Annual General Meeting
November 20th, 2022, 11:00 AM
MINUTES**

Attendees

Pastor: Fr. Joseph Salihu

Parish Pastoral Councillors: Chair Kenton Peterson, Susan Burns, Vice Chair Cameron Choquette, Adrian Cochet, Bev Hanson, Eric Lautsch, Aaron Pangilinan

Parishioners: 128 (adults)

Recording Secretary: Karen Klein

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer

Fr. Joseph welcomed everyone and spoke on why AGMs are required by the government for all charities. This AGM meeting provides a template for community building and future meetings. He thanked everyone involved in making the AGM Town Hall and Pancake Breakfast happen.

2. Introduction of Parish Pastoral Council

Council Chairperson Kenton Peterson called the meeting to order at 11:30am and introduced the members of Council and explained how Councillors act in a consultative capacity for the Pastor. Each Councillor brings a unique perspective to the table, which allows the Pastor to make decisions that are well-informed and thought through by the Council.

Kenton explained that the election of Councillors will be returning in the Spring of 2023, after a couple of years of direct Pastor appointments. This will allow the parish at large to elect their Councillors every year.

3. Report on Holy Spirit Parish Activities

Council Vice Chairperson Cameron Choquette spoke about the Synod on Synodality that was hosted at the Parish from January – March 2022. With over 87 participants, the Synod was an excellent expression of building community and the data collected informed the Diocesan synthesis.

Cameron also reported on how Council has been discerning the implementation of new committee structure for the Parish. This new structure will allow more parishioners to get involved in the parish and contribute to a thriving and welcoming parish community. He noted that it is important that parishioners be willing to volunteer their time and talent to the parish because it's a great way to meet people, give to the Church, and come together as a community.

4. Committee Reports

Included in Appendix 1 are the committee reports from Finance, Pastoral Care, and Faith Formation. Liturgy Committee Vice Chair Cameron Choquette presented a verbal report from the Committee, which highlighted how it takes over 60 individuals to make Sunday mass a success. He spoke to how the Liturgy Committee coordinates Triduum, Christmas, and other important liturgical events for the Parish. To conclude, he encouraged attendees to volunteer at mass.

5. Parishioner Feedback Discussion

To help inform Council's future planning and discernment, Council Chairperson Kenton Peterson explained that attendees could form groups that would answer some questions pertaining to the life of the Parish. The data collected through the discussions would be aggregated and shared with the Pastor and Council so that they could prayerfully discern new and existing activities or initiatives that would improve parish life.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm by Kenton Peterson.

Chairperson

Pastor

APPENDIX 1: COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Greg Kirzinger

Objective

The Finance Committee discussed and reviewed the financial condition of the parish at the October 21, 2022 meeting. The focus is to ensure the committee has a strategy for using the PDF and Savings account funds. The financial condition of the Parish as of Sept 30, 2022 includes a Parish Development Fund invested with the Diocese of Saskatoon of \$1,011,381 and a Royal Bank Savings account of \$290,462. The PDF earns interest at the rate of 2% per annum, while the Savings account fluctuates and is currently 0.65%.

Plan for use of Funds

The Parish Development Funds of \$1,011,381 are earmarked for major roof repairs and or replacement and site paving. At present these items have not been quantified.

The Savings Account funds of \$290,462 have been generated from Government subsidies received during the COVID pandemic and from net income operations for the years 2020 and 2021. Potential uses for these funds include:

1. rectory renovations including 3 bathrooms, living room upgrades and some minor décor changes – scope and costs to be determined fall 2022.
2. refreshing of the Stations of the Cross - fall and winter of 2022,
3. replacement of windows and some exterior doors in the rectory, which are 40 years old. This will be reviewed in the next two to three years,
4. replace carpeting in the sanctuary, to be reviewed over the next three to five years,
5. church pews are a longer-term item to be considered.

Two additional long-term capital items will be studied in 2023 including, use of the bells in the belltower and lighting of the cross on the steeple of the church. Once it is determined if the church can once again use the bells then a discussion will take place as to whether they should be left as is or relocated to a ground level location in the church courtyard.

Annual Operations

The Finance Committee, along with the guidance of our Pastor, endeavour to budget for a break even or earn an annual surplus to cover day to day operational expenses and miscellaneous repairs for facilities and grounds.

Parishioner Contributions

COVID has greatly affected church attendance and resulted in decreased collections, using 2019 as the base year.

- Total regular collections 2019 = \$864,555
- Total regular collections 2020 = \$673,585
- Total regular collections 2021 = \$644,155

It is this area, which will have a dramatic effect on the Parish meeting obligations of day to day expenses and maintaining parishioner services.

The Government subsidies, which are in the Savings Account, may have to be used as a last resort for day to day operations, if parishioner contributions do not cover day to day operating expenses.

Finance Committee

Discussed at the Oct. 21/22 Finance meeting

Pastoral Care – Kelly Wormsbecker

I have been employed since 2010 in Ministry of Care. Ministry of Care – what does this entail? Here is a brief description:

- Provide spiritual care
- Home visits for sick and elderly – bringing communion
- Arranging for the sacrament of Anointing of the sick
- When someone dies, I work with the family arranging the funeral, the prayers, the lunch and then bereavement through home visits and phone calls.
- Pre plan funerals
- November Mass of Remembrance- invite all the families for the Memorial Mass- for all that have died in the last year
- Train and organize volunteers for funeral hospitality, communion for the sick
- Support for caregivers
- Support the marginalized, direct them to the appropriate services, provide food, etc
- Arrange a weekly Mass for the residents at Stensrud lodge and support a team of volunteers that go to Stensrud weekly
- Lay preside funeral prayers (vigils)
- Lay preside Liturgy of the word outside the church, care facilities, funeral homes, etc.
- Charities committee, regarding the 5% that we as a church donate to various charities, preparing for meetings, etc
- Refugee committee, to be aware of the families arriving and their needs, etc, working with the refugee committee

I am always looking for volunteers for home visits, bringing communion to the sick and funeral hospitality.

Faith Formation – Erin Gratton

Good afternoon. My name is Erin Gratton and I am the pastoral associate for sacramental preparation and faith formation.

The Faith Formation Committee was founded just before Lent of this year. Its members include Fern Boutin, Carly Normand, Masson Normand, Ian Rana, Rosemary Vinet, Nathan Yaworski, and myself...a pretty amazing group of people.

This committee is filled with people who have a passion for our parish community, a desire to see our parish grow and flourish, and immense talent to be able to discern what is needed and how to create opportunities for those needs to be met. The Holy Spirit is truly working through this committee- I have been amazed by what they have put forward and am thrilled to see our parish accept their offerings.

This committee has been responsible for several initiatives in their short time. During Lent we offered many opportunities to grown our faith life. There were Family Lent activity bags created for children to journey through the beauty of Lent at home with their grown ups, we offered a Faith Study led by Arch McKay that looked at the universality of the Catholic Church. We had a group of people who met online and in person each week to watch and discuss the series The Chosen. Online resources were made easy to find for individuals to pray through daily scripture emails, reflections, and a blog on the practices of Lent. We offered the Stations of the Cross at an earlier time to better accommodate families, that were led each week by a different group in our parish which allowed a spotlight to shine on the beautiful diversity that makes up our parish.

This fall we offered two evenings on Mental Health that were very well attended, reaffirming to our committee the need that these presentations filled and the desire to create more opportunities for Mental Health discussions.

Looking forward to Advent we are in full swing preparing our offerings. There will be a Bible Study called "Promises made, promises kept- a look at the journey of discovering the one God through Abraham, the laws of Moses, the kingdom of Israel, and the message of the Messianic prophets." We will have an event where we will learn about the tradition of the Jesse Tree and make our own, we are currently creating a video series surrounding the O Antiphons we pray from December 17-23 and are once again having it led by individuals who represent some of the many groups that make up our parish- these short videos will be posted on our website and across our social media pages, and once again will be making online resources available for your prayer life.

Our main focus areas are creating opportunities for the people of our parish to foster their faith and prayer life, feel strongly connected to their parish life, and to be disciples and create disciples as we go along our way. We meet as needed throughout the year, sometimes in person, sometimes on zoom, and sometimes via email to reconnect, discern, and plan.

Thank you for this opportunity to share with you about the Faith Formation Committee.