

CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES



Minutes

CHA Parish Pastoral Council

November 22, 2011

The meeting began at 7:05 pm with opening prayer.

There was a brief discussion regarding the Council's reactions to our first meeting with Sr. Sally. The consensus agreed that overall, it was a nice way to start the Council and that there were a few good take-aways. Namely, that the Council's role is to be mentors, rather than doers, and that personal reflection and prayer were essential to our role on the Council.

We moved on to nominations for the Executive Board. It was raised and agreed that the name "Executive Board" was not in keeping with the inclusive and transparent role of the Council; thus, it was proposed that we change the name to Leadership Team. All agreed. Further discussion ensued regarding the need for Robert's Rules of Order (RRO), and as a group, we decided that our operating rules would evolve as we moved forward, but that those rules would be loosely based on RRO, but less formal.

After establishing who was eligible to be on the Leadership Team (elected members and committee representatives), nominations were made and accepted as follows:

- Secretary: Robin Sexton and Joe Newell
- Vice Chair: Louise Casamento, Rob Miller, and Roy Yenoli
- Chair: Bill Squicciarini, Robin Miller, and Louise Casamento

The following Leadership Team was elected to a three-year term:

Secretary: Robin Sexton
Vice Chair: Louise Casamento
Chair: Bill Squicciarini

The next order of business was a discussion of the article, "The Parish – An Ideal Venue for Evangelization and The Challenge of Collaboration." There was general agreement that we are doing many of the things that are discussed in the article. However, the concern was raised that if we are doing everything so well, why are we not growing and why are folks not signing up for ministry?

We agreed that there is a need to reinvent ourselves to regain our sense of welcome for all parishioners, providing opportunity for all to be involved. This moved into a discussion of some of the things we have done in the past.

A point was made that in order to determine how to move forward, it would help the committee to have some statistical data regarding population, giving, and parishioner involvement, as well as a document that gave historical perspective of the programs that have been done and their relative success/failure. An ad hoc committee was formed consisting of Tom Rekus, Joe Newell, and Sr. Angela Case. They will present their information or a progress report (considering the holidays) at our next meeting on December 20.

It was asked if the agenda and any pertinent materials could be sent to the Council a few days in advance of the meeting so that the members would have a chance to review them before the meeting. The Leadership Team agreed.

A further concern was raised that this Council may be viewed by the Parish as a clique or a closed group, unlike our previous three-council structure where all were invited to attend. Discussion ensued as to how we could make the Council's actions transparent and several ideas were raised:

- Minutes distributed in the bulletin and/or posted on the Parish website
- Synopsis read during announcements periodically
- An open forum meeting either separately or before normal business meetings of the Council on a periodic basis

No final decision was made and we were asked to think about how this might best be handled for discussion and decision at the next meeting.

Clarification was requested on how feedback from the congregation would be received by the committee. Louise volunteered to be the Council member responsible for assembling the data for inclusion on the agenda. This will be an interim solution until a long-term plan is devised for feedback.

The Parish Pastoral Council meeting schedule has been set as follows:

December 20, 6 pm at the Rectory
January 24, 7 pm, location TBD
February 28, 7 pm, location TBD
March 27, 7 pm, location TBD
April 24, 7 pm, location TBD
May 23, 7 pm, location TBD

The Leadership Team will meet on December 7, 6:30 pm at the Rectory.

The meeting closed with prayer at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Robin Sexton, Secretary, 11/22/11.