

St. Stephen the Martyr Pastoral Council
June 27, 2006
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Jason Castor, Mary Elwer, Nina Homan, Fr. Jim Tiegs, Fr. Andrew Sohm, Doree Kathol, Laura Bogue, Tom Peal, Sarah Franco, Dennis Placke, John Klimek, Patricia Miller, Tom Jorgenson and Glen Stenger

Visitors: Andra Biebl & Kylie Salerno joined the meeting to provide a report on Social Justice Committee activity.

Call to order, prayer and welcome:

Meeting was called to order by Jason Castor; Father Jim led the group in an opening prayer.

Review of Minutes: Minutes from the May 23rd meeting were reviewed and approved.

Social Justice Committee report: Andra Biebl provided a review of the 2006-2007 priorities for the Social Justice Committee.

Budget Status Update:

Glen Stenger provided the members a twelve month year to date financial update and highlighted a budget shortfall for the year.

2007 budget has been developed and copies were provided to council members. 100% of Project Hope funds will be directed to parish operational budget. Primary reason for this change is related to the revenue loss from the Millard Learning Center.

Patricia Miller requesting we do another campaign to inform parishioners about the benefits to the parish of the Project Hope efforts. Patricia also asked if we could consider acknowledging project hope purchases on the stewardship reports.

Journey to the Center Report:

Tom Jorgensen provided a report on the current progress on the Journey to the Center campaign as of 6/27. Pledges amounting \$500,000 have been collected, half of which is cash. Tom has also contacted 34 major gift prospects and is awaiting responses. Tom is suggesting a more personal contact approach with these gift donors. Tom is also considering contacting some of the one time gift givers following the results of the above 34 contacts.

St Stephen's web site will be updated with photos of the progress at the building so parishioners can see the activity. Dave Fischman continues to spearhead the bidding, in kind services and building activities. Dave Fischman and John Sullivan presented plans after masses June 10 & 11 and gathered feedback as well as responded to questions from parishioners. Those recommendations and suggestions will be reviewed and the architectural plan will be finalized.

Development Director Report:

Tom Jorgensen reported that our total weekly pledge amount has increased 6% over last year rather than the 7% increase reported last month. This drop is attributed to the 90 parishioners that are no longer members of our Parish. Phone-a-thon activities identified those membership changes.

Tom and Cindy will be reviewing monthly the EFT contributions. Those parishioners that have end dates for their EFT will be contacted as they are identified following these regular reviews. Since Jan 1 2006 it was identified that nine scheduled EFT stewardship contributions had expired.

Archdiocesan Feed My Sheep appeal for St Stephens was increased 23% over last year. Next years campaign will be an increase over this year as well.

Parish newsletter was distributed recently. The parish will also be publishing an annual report which is planned for mid August distribution.

Katie Cords was hired as a special event coordinator on a part time basis for the parish.

Unfinished business – Jason Castor:

Jason Castor has worked with Tom Marble to create a mail group on the St. Stephen Server. The group will be p.council@stephen.org. Jason will continue to troubleshoot the distribution list with Tom Marble and will follow up once it is functioning properly.

Tuition issue – Council members provided input regarding the tuition determinations made for St. Charles parishioners that will have children going to St Stephen's school.

Board of Education representation was requested at the Pastoral Council meetings at the last board of education meeting.

New Business – Father Jim:

Parish Activity Center: Father Jim suggested we consider naming the facility after Father Gerry Gonderinger. This issue will be brought back to the council for vote next month.

Council Vision and Goals Document: The updated document was distributed and Council members were asked to review for feedback at future meetings.

Council members were provided copies of the Pastoral Council Constitution electronically and in paper form at the meeting. This will be reviewed at a future meeting.

Closing prayer

Next Meeting –July 25, 2006 7PM

Follow-up items-

- Vote on name for Parish Activity Center
- Consider adding e-mail group on bulletin and a note that minutes of Council meetings are available at www.stephen.org. Will follow up once e-mail group is working
- Ensure dates and locations of Pastoral Council meetings are listed in Coming Events in weekly bulletin. Father Jim will follow up with Cindy to make sure this meeting is on the master calendar.
- Dennis asked if there is a way to incorporate the special collections dollars into EFT. Cindy is the contact person to identify a way to achieve this.
- Council Vision and Goals Document: The updated document was distributed and Council members were asked to review and provide feedback directly to Father Jim or at future meetings.
- Necessary revisions to the Pastoral Council Constitution should be considered at a future meeting.
- Naming of Activity Center- Members will consider this and a vote will be considered next month.
- Review and additional discussion may be considered regarding Audit recommendations and Parish policy. – Suggested agenda item for an upcoming meeting