



CHRIST THE KING CHURCH

1 McCurdy Road, Old Lyme CT 06371
www.christthekingchurch.net

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Pastoral Council Meeting

Wednesday November 2, 2022, 7pm

Present: Fr. Joe Ashe, Kathy Burton, Ellen Cole, Larry Ghirardi, Robert Grissom, Dorothy Paine, Ron Paine, Sharon Torrenti, Jean Wilczynski (Finance Chair), David Wolmuth, Erica Zapatka

Excused: Lauren Girasoli, Mike Rafferty, Bill Thomas, Bill Clinton

Opening Prayer – Fr. Joe

Meditation: Luke 6:37-38 **Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back.**

Reinforcement of what Jesus asks of us – expectations of our Father, example to follow.

Items

- 1. Proposed Welcome Envelope** – mock up of proposed pew envelope was presented for comments. Discussion of difficulty of placing in pews due to the configuration of the pew boxes, can start by placing in the Narthex. Erica asked if the envelope is to give an offering? The proposed envelope is to gather feedback about design, purpose and ultimate distribution. Ron will send the envelope to Erica to tweak and offer suggestions. Discussion ensued about ways to give besides Faith Direct which requires set up and whether Venmo or similar electronic method to give one time or sporadically. Perhaps a QR code. Venmo fees for nonprofits were looked up and the fee is 1.9% plus \$0.10 per transaction; need to research whether there are set up fees and security of electronic giving.
- 2. Coffee And...** - Father Joe suggested holding the coffee hours in the Narthex. Need a sponsor group and or schedule a date to do one for the first time; after the holidays. Ron will ask the Men's Club as they have expressed interest in the past. Dorothy will talk to the chair of the Hospitality Committee, Donna Dean, to see if she can spearhead the effort to after January.
- 3. AED and CPR Training** – Sharon spoke to parishioner and former State Trooper Ray Belval and had gotten confirmation that he would come to teach basic CPR and show how to use an Automatic Defibrillator Device (AED). The training would be open to any interested parishioners. As described to Sharon, it entails administering basic CPR, calling 911 and using the AED. The cost of the device is approximately \$2,000 and Sharon indicated she has a donor who would donate half the cost. The device is almost foolproof and would be a benefit to have in case of emergency. Discussion about an organization called "In A Hearbeat" was brought up which donates the entire cost of the AED, Sharon will investigate that avenue. Another program; Stop the Bleed was also suggested and Ray expressed to Sharon a willingness to offer that as well.
- 4. Bylaws changes-** It was proposed by Ron and agreed by all to make a change to the by-laws from an annual election to a bi-annual election (every two years) as well as to change the retreat to every 2 years upon seating of the newly elected council. In order to change the by laws we need to inform parishioners of the proposed change and to allow for comments before amendment and acceptance. A bulletin notice will be placed to ask for parishioner comments by a certain date tbd. The by-laws are available on the website.
- 5. Election Planning for 2023 – preview** – In order to begin the process of electing a new council, Ron expressed that the next meeting, we should be prepared to begin the process which includes: Identify

Potential Candidates, set the schedule, collect Bios and meet with candidates to explain what the commitment entails including review of Bylaws.

6. **Finance Reporting – schedule for financial report and budget** Jean will have the financial report ready for Fr. Joe's approval. Parish giving is basically on track despite some of the challenges encountered during the pandemic. The reserve account is only down by 13%. This included a bequest by a late parishioner last calendar period. American Rescue Plan grant for \$1,800 was requested and received, other organizations applied for the maximum and received their requests, however, in good conscience we could not pad our expenses.
7. **Future of Zoom and remote masses** – Discussion centered on whether it should continue as is; whether improvements should be made. Cost of Zoom is \$500-\$600 and adding to the cost of printing worship aids in place of Missalettes brings up the total to \$1,800. Additional volunteers would be helpful to relieve Ron the responsibility of running it along with Bill. With choir season underway, it will be more challenging as Ron and Bill are busy in that realm. Should we reduce it down to one Mass per weekend? Fr. Joe would like it to continue as bad weather season is upon us, flu season and outbreaks of Covid continue to plague us. A bulletin announcement seeking volunteers and perhaps some tech savvy confirmation students would be interested in helping. A personal ask by Fr. Joe would also be helpful.
8. **Committee structure – possible improvements to outreach** – Some additional organization in outreach by the 5 oversight committees would be helpful in facilitating communication. For example, who coordinates the timely delivery of the food donations collected in the Narthex to the soup kitchens? We have some opportunities to coordinate that effort along with others. The list of ministries should be updated to review and to see what the next steps might be in that regard. Communications currently are on an ad-hoc basis.
9. **Outdoor meeting / event with Mass** – Bob reached out to the town in regard to the timing of the space request. We need to set a date and go from there. Fr. Joe suggested June 21st and penciled it into the schedule book. Fr. Je said he would not need too much prep time, but we would need to have to have a PA system and decide about a rain date. Should it be done at Town Woods Park or Cross Lane? Pros and cons of each site were discussed as well as perhaps having a picnic or pot luck here at the church with Mass to follow in church. If here, it would preclude the need for a rain date. Larry mentioned that the by-laws state a requirement to have a meeting and present the financial report.
10. **Harvest Festival – quick update and observations** – Dorothy gave an update on the results of this year's Harvest Festival. We had our most successful year yet raising \$32,500 with excellent weather and very good attendance. The event was well received by the public and by all accounts went very smoothly. Many volunteers expressed interest in returning to help next year. Dorothy will chair along with help from Barbara Fischer who agreed to co-chair next year's event.
11. **Parish Directory** – It's been many years since our last directory and there was talk of one to start just before Covid hit and shut everything down. Louise might have more information on creating a much overdue directory and whether there is a contractual obligation on the number of parishioners who would be willing to sit for portraits as well as what costs, if any, are involved. Discussion on whether Olan Mills still does this type of thing and whether formal portrait sitting such as in the past is desired.
12. **Committees- Facilities Update** – Ron gave an update on some ongoing and new projects: New water heaters for the kitchen area have been replaced. They were both corroded and leaking. An updated automated lighting system for the outside lights has been installed. It is much easier to program and can be done remotely as well. Sullivan Paving has been contracted and has completed replacement of the broken curbing in the parking lot, fixed the handicap access ramps and patched a hole near one of the drains by the circle. The cracks will be filled in the coming weeks. The organ pipes at the front of the sanctuary have been straightened as they were leaning and in danger of possibly falling.
13. **Communications – Newsletter schedule** – Ellen mentioned the goal is to send the newsletter out 4 times per year. It has been sent via email in the past and some parishioners don't recall receiving them. The Men's Club was willing to pay for a printed and mailed newsletter for one of those issues. The costs were as follows: \$300 for first class postage; \$1,100 for printing 800 color copies. Costs continue to increase although some cost savings could be realized by printing in black and white, getting the non-



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profit mail rate as well as possibly look into sponsorships to cover the cost of printing and mailing. Ellen could use some material and suggestions as to what to include in future publications.

14. - **Liturgy update** – Ellen gave an update on the Liturgy committee in Bill's absence. The whole year was looked at and it was decided not to do an Advent mission this year due to time and planning constraints. A Lenten 3-day mission is being planned to include adoration and reconciliation. A family adoration event in January with a teaching aspect is also being planned.
15. **Education Committee – CCD Enrollment** – Louise was absent, no update.
16. **Parish Life** – Advent-Ron asked if there is anyone to set up the creche in the church as Celine Sullivan is no longer available to do so. Kathy volunteered to oversee that effort. Giving Tree- Sue Ellen Perry will continue to oversee as in the past.
17. **Miscellaneous**
 - Additional handicapped or mobility impaired spaces are needed, Sharon Torrenti was asked by a parishioner to increase the number of those spaces. Ron will investigate purchasing and installing signs as well as investigating automatic doors for access to the church.
 - Larry reported that the VFW was pleased to use the hall for their annual dinner to fund raise for veterans causes. The amount raised was \$3,000. A donation will be made to CTK for use of the hall in thanks.

Items

For Reference:

Committee Assignments

Communications: Ellen, Erica, Dorothy, Ron

Education: David, Mike, Erica, Lauren

Liturgy: Larry, Erica, Kathy, Sharon, Father Walter

Parish Life: Kathy, Dorothy, Bill C.

Property: Ron, Mike, Bill