

SJCC Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes – May 5, 2021

The meeting opened with prayer, led by Terry Morse, followed by some faith sharing.

Since early March, we have been discussing 2 broad challenges within the church: Spiritual and Structural. There has been a lot of time and work that has gone into addressing the structural challenges. The process has recently created an organizational chart that visually breaks down areas of leadership, staff and ministries within the parish, and has introduced a new addition: the Mission Council. On the chart, the Mission Council is strategically placed to graphically represent that its function is to be an organizing and connecting link between the staff and ministry members/leaders of the parish. The April meeting of all staff and ministry leaders, organized to discuss the new structure, addressed a host of questions regarding the new Mission Council, such as who will serve on it, specific responsibilities, facilitation and coordination between staff and ministries, guidelines for communication, and how this council might better coordinate the efforts of ministries.

It has been proposed that the Mission Council is to be made up of 6 appointed members, 3 from the staff side, and 3 from the ministry side. There will be a Chair (a lay person but not a current leader of a commission). These roles would be appointed by the Pastor. The Pastor will also be part of the Mission Council. Length of term for leadership, as well as members, is still in discussion.

There has been confusion around what the PPC is specifically responsible for within the church, where in many cases implementation often seemed to fall within this role. The Mission Council will assume responsibility for the implementation of the Parish Pastoral Plan, thus allowing more time for the PPC to focus on the consultative and advisory responsibilities. Additionally, it has been suggested that the PPC become more streamlined, with only 6 At-Large members, with three year terms. With each year, 2 newly discerned members will join. There will continue to be an Executive Team made up of a Chair, Vice-Chair, and a Secretary. The end goal is to have a small group of extremely passionate members, dedicated to the mission of Missionary Discipleship. (There is also the Pastor's discretion at any given time to potentially make room for additional members if necessary) The PPC will be expected to conduct research outside of the meeting times, attend the monthly meetings, attend subcommittee meetings (where relevant), participate on subcommittees, and interface with other parish groups in the pursuit of PPC business. The dedication to Missionary Discipleship is such an important component, that the current members have been given the option to withdraw if they don't feel they're a good fit anymore. Furthermore, while some might find that the PPC is no longer for them, everyone was strongly encouraged that "this is not the end". SJCC needs everyone to get /stay involved. Everyone is well positioned to carry the message of Missionary Discipleship and the implementation of the Parish Pastoral Plan throughout the parish.

The end of May will host Information and Discernment nights for 2021-2022 PPC members. At present, 7 of the nominees for PPC have responded yes.

An update from the subcommittee researching best practices throughout the Archdiocese, and beyond, was given by Rachel Wandishin. The subcommittee has been researching best practices from successful programs beyond the parish, all dealing with faith formation for youth and young adult. Additionally, they have been reviewing the staffing history of faith formation at SJCC, examining current staffing positions to determine how, or if, they can best fit with proposed recommendations, and addressing a lack of continuity and communication between various stages of faith formation. There will be more to come at the next PPC meeting.

Pastors Report: Given all of this conversation surrounding the structure, there is a glaring hole in our chart: we need a Director of Evangelization. On the 6th of May there will be a meeting (among those on the search committee for this role) that will discuss defining and finalization of the job description, as well as launching a search for the right candidate. The goal is to have this person in place by September. Also, Fr. John has been in contact with the music director from the Seminary at the Mount. He will assist part time with music at SJCC. There are short term and long term plans in place. With restrictions being lifted, questions have arisen regarding the live streaming of Mass; this will continue to take place indefinitely. There is also work being done with regard to expanding seating arrangements to meet social distancing guidelines, but also create more seating with the increased attendance. Lastly, it was suggested that there be a revisited focus on guiding those receiving communion on the tongue, there have been some that have not gone down the center aisle, and it has posed an issue for those following.

Attendance: Fr. John Worgul, Terry Morse, Tony Gioio, Joselle Ruddle, Sue Wilson, Sharon Borcharding, Karen Spivey, Gwen Lily, Chris Patrick, Rachel Wandishin, Laura Bird, Bob Bastress, Mark Steinbrunner, Elaine McClearn, Leigh Ann Gagnon, and Robert Muhl.