

Minutes of the Parish Council Special Meeting Held 23,Sept. 2020
SAINT MATTHEW ECUMENICAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. Zoom online meeting being recorded.

Attendance:

Council Members Attending: Joshua Cruz, Mariah Doyle-Sandoval, Bob Morano, Susan Morano, Remo Ottone, Sharon Smith, Stephany Crisantos, Tonya Adams

Council Members Absent: Jennie Guida, Rosa Isela Lopez, Bertie Ninichuck

Eight out of eleven gives us a quorum.

Non-Council Members Present:

Bishop Peter Hickman, Fr. Arturo Querijero, Mother Diane Smith, Mother Martha Rogers, Mother Jetty Van Der Berghe, Doris Hand, Paul Schumaker,

Opening Prayer and Parish Business:

Opening prayer given by Bishop Peter Hickman

1. Synod Delegates and Observers.

Bob explained that the purpose of this special meeting was to discuss the upcoming Synod and those who would be attending as delegates and/or observers. Doris has been in communication with Tom Wilding who heads the House of Laity. Tom inquired about our member status and he was wondering if we still believed we were entitled to 5 delegates. Doris explained that subsequent to 2019 we have made a dedicated effort to bring the Spanish-Speaking community to a higher level of activity and inclusion at Saint Matthew. We now have three from the Spanish speaking community on the parish council, giving them greater representation and involvement.

Our total community at this point is over 200 for the Spanish speaking and almost 100 for the English-speaking community. Therefore, our total approaches 300 which would entitle us to 6 delegates. Since Doris has paid the community fee of \$250, we can have our 6 delegates and as many observers as we wish. Since we relied so heavily on the Spanish speaking head count, we felt it was important to have them represented in the delegates.

We reviewed the list of delegates. They are Tonya Adams, Doris Hand, Sharon Smith and Jennie Guida. These four are all English speaking and parish council members except Doris. Doris has such a long history with both the parish and the ECC that everyone thought she was of extreme value. We wanted Spanish speaking delegates, but we recognized their need to be fluent in English as well. We therefore selected Kelly Querijero and Stephany Crisantos.

Unfortunately, this means that John Deane will have to attend as an observer.

The council put to a vote this list of delegates and it was passed unanimously by those in attendance.

2. Upcoming process for acquiring new council members:

Bob Morano mentioned the upcoming new council members and the nominations. The nominations and the term decisions will be forwarded to the council, Bishop Peter and Father Arturo at the end of the month. Everyone should review these items when emailed out to ensure that their preferences are properly reflected.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

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Addendum

Sent by email on September 25 from Doris Hand to Tom Wilding

From: Doris Hand <storyhand@sbcglobal.net>
To: Thomas L. Wilding <wilding@uta.edu>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2020, 07:12:41 AM PDT
Subject: RESPONSE TO YOUR E-MAIL OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2020

Tom,

Much has happened in the Saint Matthew community since the end of 2019. At the end of 2019 the English speaking community and the Spanish speaking community really came together into a cohesive group. Before the Spanish speaking community was part of Saint Matthew, yet they were quite separate. For the first time in Saint Matthew's history three Spanish speaking members of the community joined the parish council increasing the membership to 12. Also, by having representation on the parish council, the Spanish speaking community now has a voice in decisions.

After speaking with Fr. Arturo for the number of members in his community and checking with the office manager for the number in the English speaking community, I can report that we have between 280 and 300 members. With these numbers, we believe Saint Matthew is entitled to six delegates in the House of Laity. I hope this answers your concern about the number of delegates for Saint Matthew.

Regarding tithing, in past years Saint Matthew had faithfully tithed what was owed according to membership. In December, 2019 Bishops Kedda and Denise visited Saint Matthew for listening meetings. At that time, it was clearly stated to both Bishops that Saint Matthew lost a large portion of financial backing because of the members who left. Bob Morano, the parish council moderator, clearly stated to the Bishops that Saint Matthew would be in no position to tithe during 2020 with this loss and that the community had to increase membership to return to tithing to the national ECC. It was the community's understanding that the Bishops agreed to this. Evidently, this information was not shared with the ECC National Finance Committee.

Before COVID hit, Saint Matthew was in the process of outreaching to increase membership. COVID halted this. Regarding the 200 members in the Spanish speaking part of our community, most of them work either in the tourism industry or service industry in southern California. Disneyland, the largest employer in the area, has been closed since March. Eighty percent of the Spanish speaking membership have lost their jobs. I do not know how many have lost their jobs in the English speaking community. With the pandemic and loss of jobs, how many other ECC communities have not tithed? Does the National ECC intend to deny them voting rights in the HOP and HOL, if they have not paid their dues?

In the updated delegate listing to follow, Stephany Crisantos will be replacing John Deane who is no longer a delegate. Saint Matthew delegates and their emails are:

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Tonya Adams	tjadams@gmail.com
Stephany Crisantos	scrisantosv11@gmail.com
Jennie Guida	10_1ggkids@cox.net
Doris Hand	storyhand@sbcglobal.net
Kelly Querijero	kellyquerijero@yahoo.com
Sharon Smith	smsmithhere@verizon.net

Blessings to you and thank you for all your effort and work over the past two years for the HOL, especially in this time of COVID.

Doris Hand
Saint Matthew