

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING September 8, 2020
SAINT MATTHEW ECUMENICAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Council meetings since April were recorded by Zoom. Since April, Bob or Susan transcribe/document PC minutes.

Attendance:

Joshua Cruz, Mariah Doyle-Sandoval, Jennie Guida, Rosa Isela Lopez, Susan Morano, Bertie Ninichuck, Remo Ottone, Sharon Smith, Bob Morano

Council Members Absent: Stephany Crisantos, Tonya Adams

Non-Council Members Present:

Bishop Peter Hickman, Fr. Arturo Querijero, Mother Diane Smith, Mother Martha Rogers, Mother Jetty Van Der Berghe, Deacon Tammy Fuqua, Deacon Tony Russo, Deacon Adelia Sandoval, Mirella Hickman, Doris Hand, John Deane, Paul Schumaker,

Opening Prayer and Remarks:

The meeting was opened by Bishop Peter Hickman with a prayer.

Bob Morano, as Moderator, gave an opening statement asking all council members to be mindful of our commitment to transparency. Transparency is achieved by documenting meeting minutes, and by including email addresses in your distribution list when mentioning a person by name in body of your email. Everyone is asked to think about how to achieve transparency.

The food collections for August were a success. With Meredythe's resignation we need someone to step up and take over the reporting. Tammy said she would help.

September Assignments / Decisions:

- In an email sent from Meredythe Hutchinson to Bishop Peter, Fr. Arturo, and Bob Morano on September 4th, Meredythe resigned from the Parish Council effective immediately. This news was announced at the Council meeting.
- Vote to adopt a new Parish Council Ministry, named Environmental Stewardship was approved. Motion to adopt made by Bob. Seconded by Susan. Prior to the vote Mariah and Deacon Adelia gave an oral presentation describing the ministry, the objectives, and the research and contacts they have made in this area. Mariah will be PC Liaison/Chairperson for this ministry.
- Vote to separate Lay Ministries and move under management / auspices of Clergy Council as "Pastoral Ministries" was approved. Motion made by Bob. Seconded by Jennie. Ministries that will move to Clergy Council are: Bereavement, Spiritual Formation (Bible Study, Inquiry/Confirmation, Children's Education), Liturgical Ministry, Music Ministry, and Visitation Ministry. Prior to vote Mo. Martha and Fr. Arturo mentioned the importance of coordination for Education Ministry, requesting that Education Ministry reside in Pastoral Ministry exclusively. Mo. Diane mentioned that historically Adult Education has been led by laity (Tony or Merry Battaglia, Dr. Bill Singleton). Mo. Diane mentioned that there would be a PC liaison in Pastoral ministries (with the exceptions of those ministries which are confidential) and mentioned there should also be a method to assign a

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person to be a liaison from Clergy in Lay Ministries. Fr. Arturo confirmed that “Pastoral Associates” were assigned to various Lay Ministries.

- Vote to officially place Mirella Hickman as Business Manager and replacement for Kathryn Tuma was approved. Motion made by Bob. Seconded by Susan.

Old Business:

1. Financial Report – by Bob Morano

Due to the Labor Day holiday falling just prior to second Tuesday, Finance Ministry was unable to meet prior to September Parish Council meeting. Mirella did complete the financials for August and there was an increase in profit, but not in bank balance. This detail requires further review. Bob will schedule a Finance Ministry meeting on Thursday, September 10.

2. Food donations/collections for the WSWA

Food Drive scheduled for Sunday September 6th was cancelled due to dangerous heat warnings. Jennie gave a report for the August 2nd and August 16th Food Drives. Jennie mentioned that donations for Senior Citizens were taken during the August collections. Bob announced Meredythe’s resignation leaves the Social Justice/Outreach (SJO) ministry without a Parish Council liaison. Bob asked Deacon Tammy to help out with communication and photos documenting the Food Drives. Deacon Tammy agreed. Meredythe did submit SJO July meeting minutes and Food Drive documentation for August 2 and 16th. These minutes and reports have been uploaded to website.

3. Synod participation - - Are we fully staffed and ready? Follow-up by Father Arturo

Fr. Arturo thanked Doris Hand for making the \$250 registration payment for Saint Matthew Church. This payment covers Saint Matthew delegates and observers. Fr. Arturo will ask the ECC Synod President for confirmation on whether or not, Saint Julia, House of Ruth, and Holy Spirit will be covered by the \$250 payment. Holy Spirit Community (Fr. Chinnappa) would like to participate in the 2020 Synod. Five Spanish Community priests will register separately.

Synod issues, agenda, and tentative schedule were emailed to Synod delegates. During the October Synod, there will be a request to delegates for “High Approval” (75% positive vote) of ECC Constitution. Lay delegates are Sharon Smith, Jennie Guida, John Deane, Tonya Adams, and Doris Hand. We have five lay delegates. Clergy Delegates: from Saint Matthew are Mo. Diane and Fr. Arturo; from Saint Julia is Mo. Martha; from House of Ruth, is Mo. Jetty; from Holy Spirit is Fr. Paul Chinnappa.

Doris asked if there would be more publicity to our Community (English and Spanish) about the Synod workshops to generate more interest and participation as an observer. Fr. Arturo agreed to send the tentative agenda to Bob for publication on website/email blast. Synod dates are October 12th, 13th and 14th.

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4. **Saint Matthew Building Sign** - presented by Mo. Diane Smith

Mo. Diane emailed the clergy requesting feedback on the new mock-up/logo. Eleven responses received; five liked the new sign; four people gave a negative response, of which three people provided reasons for disliking. Negative responses included:

- Logo looks too corporate.
- Because our church looks like a commercial building, people won't understand the "hand" logo, the "hand" logo won't communicate that we are a church.
- Logo is beautiful on a webpage, but on a building, logo should include a cross symbol and the word, "church" to identify us.



Majority opinion is that we should do something on this sign so that we are recognized as a Christian /Catholic Church.

Jennie suggested that we switch the symbols, placing the cross first. Bob indicated that a version displaying the cross as the left-hand symbol was created and distributed in July. It was identified as #8 "StackedCrossLogo" Please see: the link that follows to see the alternative sign choices. Click the photos or use your keyboard arrows to advance:

<https://cdpn.io/mrjustin/debug/03cc138e1c200a35801e8d60d45c6929>

Susan asked that Bob send out another email to solicit votes on this decision, ensuring that all clergy members and parish council members are included in the distribution list. Mo. Diane will send the feedback comments from her clergy survey to Bob, so he can include them in his email. Bishop Peter mentioned that Complex Association may have input on sign colors. Fr. Arturo will email Arthur Holland to get any applicable rules on sign colors.

5. **Community Life Event - - Kathryn Tuma's Zoom Retirement Party:**

Tentative program was sent via email and a trial run is scheduled for Thursday, September 10th. Zoom event scheduled for Saturday, September 12th. Jennie Guida gave an overview of the schedule for the party agenda. Sharon Smith, Tonya Adams, Mirella Hickman are actively involved; other attendees scheduled to do a tribute statement.

6. **Saint Matthew "Next-door" Account**

Follow-up by Father Arturo

Fr. Arturo mentioned that NextDoor app required our account be listed as a "business account". At this point, we don't know if a "business account" requires a fee. Fr. Arturo will check on costs. We know there is no cost for an individual account, but are unsure of fee for a business account.

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New Business:

1. Proposal / Motion for 2021 PC replacement members

During the Council meeting last month, Susan announced that the Constitution Committee is making progress; however, we will not have an approved new Constitution defining a new PC nomination process in time for 2021 replacement members. Therefore, we must follow the existing 2015 Constitution currently in place.

Parish Council members are asked to reflect on the term length that they want to serve and send email to Bob Morano before end of September. We need 4 volunteers to adopt the one-year term (January 2020 to December 31, 2020). It may not be possible to get 4 eligible new candidates, so we may need existing members declaring the one-year term, to continue for another year, if needed. PC members should consider this decision to be their final “term length” decision. Early in May we asked for tentative decisions, now we need to offer 4 open seats to the community and need to compile list of eligible candidates. We're using the existing 2015 Constitution process for replacing council members.

Existing council members were asked to send a private email to Bob declaring the term length that they want to serve, so the Moderator will know how many open positions need to be filled.

2. Email blast database versus Church Directory - Presented by Susan Morano

Susan presented a report detailing differences in count between Church Directory (107 families) versus email blast database (286). Susan drafted an invitation letter, enclosed a printed version of the August 23rd email blast announcement to 13 individuals who are listed in Church Directory, but not on blast database, inviting them to “sign-up”. None of those letters were returned as “undeliverable”.

There were 11 people in our Church Directory with email addresses that were not in blast database. Susan sent an email, attached the August 23rd blast announcement inviting those 11 people to “sign-up”.

Susan reported that 111 emails out of 286 email addresses in the blast database, have home addresses that are out of Orange County, 6 have home addresses that are out of California, and 1 has a home address out of United States. Two addresses were already removed from blast database (one person has passed away, and one person is incarcerated).

Susan announced 9 people who left the church last December are still on blast database. These people were named: Claudia Kilby, Craig Redmann, Victoria Anderson, Merry and Tony Battaglia, Ned and Karen Bradley, Irene Bronson, Jim and Lou Clancy, Victoria Greene, Brett Fallavollita, Brian and Jerriann Masetta. Several clergy members requested that these addresses be removed from blast database with exception of Brian and Jerriann Masetta, Irene Bronson, and Victoria Anderson. The list of addresses, less Masetta, Bronson, and Anderson address, were subsequently removed. Deacon Tammy requested that these individuals be kept on the database.

Clergy also asked that Nancy and Mike Mitchell’s email addresses be removed. Susan subsequently rechecked the blast database and found Nancy and Mike Mitchell’s email address; these email addresses were also removed from blast database, subsequent to the Council meeting.

Closing

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Fr. Arturo delivered the closing prayer.
Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm