

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 12, 2021
SAINT MATTHEW ECUMENICAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

The zoom meeting was called to order by Moderator Tonya Adams at 7:07 pm.

Opening Prayer was given by Bishop Peter Hickman

Approval of Minutes: Doris asked that a change be made to include Bob Morano's last name. It was pointed out that last names need to always be included when the person is not listed in attendance at the meeting.

Roll & Quorum Determination:

Parish Council Members Present: Tonya Adams, Mariah Doyle-Sandoval, Stephany Crisantos, Jennie Guida, Rosa Isela Lopez, Sharon Smith, Doris Hand, Polly Touhey, and Anitha Madanu

Council Members Absent: Joshua Cruz, Lydia Russo, and Ana Diaz.

Non-council members present: Bishop Peter Hickman, Fr. Arturo Querijero, Mother Martha Rogers, Mother Jetty van den Berghe, Mother Esther Diane Smith, Deacon Tony Russo, Mirella Hickman, and Paul Schumaker

Decisions and Votes:

Lydia Russo gave Mariah her proxy.

Mariah moved to approve the September minutes with adding Bob Morano's last name. Jennie seconded the motion. **Passed unanimously. None opposed.**

Old Business:

Finance Report: Deacon Tony advised we were negative \$1800 for the month of September and we have been averaging that for the past four or five months. We need a meeting to address how to stop the bleeding. The tithing has been consistent. Thirteen families are tithing. The Stewardship Campaign will follow the format of the last year with people sharing their stories about Saint Matthew. Expenses fluctuate in some months. For 2020-21 there were 18 or 19 pledges, but a commitment from 30 people. Expenses for September were \$20,000. Average expenses are \$18,000; income is averaging \$16,000-\$17,000. It was asked whether recent budget changes caused the problem. The addition is only about \$400 a month. There will be a meeting October 13 to go over the budget. The question arose again about revisiting Bishop Bills rent and discussing it with him. Bishop Peter asked whether we pay taxes as a non-profit. Tony will look into this. Tony would like Katie Henry to join the review of the budget.

Script Fund Raiser Program: Jennie met with Kath Wenzel and Fr. Arturo on starting the program. To understand how it works, it can be introduced to the parish council members to use it. It would be good to start immediately to take advantage of holiday spending. The leaving PC members and the incoming members could be part of the trial run. The clergy council will also participate in the trial. Jennie will contact Kath Wenzel to see if we can start for the Nov. 16 parish council meeting.

Philippine Orphanage Fundraiser: Mother Martha gave background information about connecting our children with children in the 3rd world. During Lent and before COVID, this fundraiser was called Have a Heart and collected money for a school in the Philippines. With changes in the country and natural disasters this school no longer exists. To continue for our children to give to the 3rd world, Fr. Toting Tronco knows a priest who works in an orphanage that has damaged buildings that need repair along with a need for educational and food supplies. Tonya said this project should be presented at the Social Justice and Outreach Ministry in-person meeting scheduled for Oct. 21. Doris pointed out that we have financial need in our community and this asks of the same people. Fr. Arturo suggested we look for other sources and resources to assist with our financial needs.

Parish Council Nominations and Election for 2022: Tonya advised one self-nomination was received. The due date for nominations was Sunday, October 17, 2021. Tonya still believes in the decision to ask people to nominate themselves. PC members need to do some recruiting. A question was asked about recruiting from the 12:30 Mass. Fr. Arturo advised that only 11 people are regular members and they are all Spanish speakers. Fr. Arturo will approach young people individually to see if they may be willing to commit to being a member. Tonya requested that the young people be accepted without expecting that they will have the same amount of time as retirees.

Question on Unity Mass and Community Meeting: It will be held in person and via zoom. People can submit votes via chat. Ballots will be handed out to members present. Jennie suggested the ballots be handed out after Mass. Two members of the PC will be picked to do the vote count. Our Constitution asks for a community meeting for this. All adult parish members excluding paid clergy and paid staff can vote. If there are not four new members, the PC will continue in December to search for people to fill the vacancies.

New Business:

ECC Truth & Reconciliation – Virtual Retreat on Anti-Racism: This retreat is planned for the clergy on Friday, November 5th, and Saturday, November 6th. ECC Truth & Reconciliation Committee had a film club once a month for several months. This group watched films on racism and met on zoom for discussion. Planners of the retreat hope for representation from all communities. The retreat is open to anyone, even if described as for clergy. Tonya will email the registration link. An upcoming plan is a book study on “My Grandmother’s Hands.”

Community Building Meeting: Deacon Tony advised the meeting was held October 18 on zoom. Many ideas were presented. Fr. Arturo shared that ways need to be found to make Saint Matthew more visible. From the discussion three areas were suggested as ways to do the building:

1. Outreach to organizations or groups outside of Saint Matthew to make our community more visible.
2. In House Outreach: Active members of our community will contact members who have left to invite them back.
3. Social Outreach: Finding ways to go out to people who have never been a part of Saint Matthew.

Report from the Parish Pastor: Fr. Arturo advised that there is a need for the clergy to show strength in being pastors. Also, creative ways need to be found for raising funds outside of the Saint Matthew Community. We need to find different ways of operating. Fr. Toting had a suggestion on following the idea of basic Christian communities. Fr. Arturo reminded the clergy if they feel rejected

to remember Jesus experienced that too. Our work is for the mission and that Jesus is the one who gives inspiration. We need to continue community building effort. Our strong points are love, brotherhood and sisterhood. What we need to show is a joy-filled community of people. Jennie suggested to invite people to the community building zoom meeting on October 18th. Deacon Tony commended the Environmental Stewardship committee for raising their own funds. A reminder was given to park on the street side of the building and to open the doors to the gathering hall. There was a problem with the gathering room door being found unlocked on last Sunday morning.

Reports from Standing Ministry Teams:

Community Life—St. Matt's After Dark: Doris reported that there are performers for each culture and the program will be exciting with songs, drumming, dance, and storytelling. A meeting of the people will be Friday, Oct. 15th at 6:30 pm in the gathering room. The program will end with all singing "This Land Is Your Land". All performers will meet on Oct. 23 at 4 pm for a dress rehearsal before the show at 7 pm. Programs are being made. Jennie added that a banner announcing the event will be hung at the front entrance for a week of advertising. The next Community Life meeting will be on Oct. 19th on zoom.

Jennie also advised that Bob and Susan Morano will be in attendance at Mass on Oct. 24th. Next Sunday there will be a card for everyone to sign. Bob and Susan contributed by heading the parish council in 2020, working on the new Constitution, and giving us the example of deep commitment. After the Mass on Oct. 24 there will be a farewell gathering with cake and fellowship in the gathering room.

Environmental Stewardship: The Environmental Stewardship Ministry purchased the soil for our repotting the plants outside of Saint Matthew on Wednesday, Oct. 13th at 8-12 pm. If you come for the repotting, bring garden gloves and pick axes for breaking up the soil. Donations will be accepted from those who want to take the mature plants and pots home. There will be another plant sale on Nov. 21 before the 9:30 Mass, between Masses and after the 12:30 Mass. Anyone is invited to donate succulents for this sale. Contact the Environmental Stewardship Ministry if you have any plants to donate. The Association is checking water usage and putting caps on the water spigots.

Youth Group: Plans had been made to go to the beach on Oct. 24th. With the oil spill the outing changed. There will be a simple gathering at Santiago Park with pizza and games, giving the people in attendance an opportunity to bond.

Fr. Arturo gave the closing prayer and Bishop Peter gave a blessing.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Doris Hand
On October 21, 2021