

St. Vincent de Paul Parish Council

December 10, 2019

Minutes

1) Attendance

- a) Present: Amber Hendricks (9:30 rep, Parish Council President); Fr. Ray Chase (Pastor); Colleen MCahill (Pastoral Associate); Anne Freeburger (Corporator); Peggy Meyer (Co-Chair, Social Action Committee); John Moore (Chair, Education & Enrichment Committee), Al Reichelt, (Co-Chair, Liturgy Committee); laisha Payton (11:45 rep); Peggy Shouse (9:30 rep, Vice-President), Corinne Agren-Barnes (9:30 rep, Secretary); Jim Casey (Chair, Ad Hoc Committee); Bob Reuter (Facilities Committee); Maureen Daly (ALIVE); Hazel Hendricks (Parishioner); Craig Thornton (Parishioner)
- b) Absent: Graham Yearley (Corporator); Mark Palmer (Chair, Finance Committee); Dennis & Rita McMullin (Facilities Committee); Alana Florio (ALIVE); Gerry Fialkowski (Co-Chair, Liturgy Committee); Chris Whitney (7:15 rep); Ned Banks, (9:30 rep)

2) New Business

- a) Amber invited the group to come together for this meeting in a different way. There were no formal reports from the committees (with the exception of the Ad Hoc Committee). The group shared a meal as a way of expressing our joy in Christ and each other during this time of Advent, and began to explore the ways in which we are Church together.
- b) *Ad Hoc Committee (AHC)*
 - i) The AHC will be petitioning to become a full committee
 - ii) The committee will write up its charter and reevaluate its mission as it discusses what the purpose of this committee will be going forward
 - iii) The committee will present this to the Council in March/April 2020
- c) *Exploring How We Are Church*
 - i) Amber invited the group to sit with the Sunday gospel readings from this season of Advent and, following each reading, posed questions that invited the group to think about different aspects of how we are Church together. The group was able to read and discuss the gospels and questions for the first two Sundays.
 - (1) The First Sunday of Advent
 - (a) Reading: Matthew 24:36-44
 - (b) Question: I would like to invite us to pause. This passage speaks of the ordinary interrupted by the extraordinary. God is asking us now to ready ourselves for interruption. In what ways was the ordinary life of our parish this year interrupted by the extraordinary?
 - (2) The Second Sunday of Advent
 - (a) Reading: Matthew 3:1-12

(b) Question: Holy one, we fail to recognize you in the daily-ness of life. We hide our true feelings. We do not use our strength with wisdom. We let fear make us small. We indulge in self-doubt and doubts in You. We are sorry. Divine Love, let us feel your nearness. Free us from the shame that causes us to settle for less than your goodness. Help us to live honestly, act courageously, and speak wisely. Use us to build your kingdom on Earth.

This passage is an invitation to cut out and burn away the chaff. In anticipation of God's abundance, are there things we need to consider letting go of, personally or as a parish community in order to make space for new growth to start?

ii) The group will continue this reflection at the next council meeting.