

Minutes of the Ad Hoc Committee on Church Reform 2018

Saturday, October 6, 2018, 3:30-5:00 at St. Vincent Parish classroom

Present: Al Reichelt, Amber Hendricks, Colleen McCahill, Howdy Burns, Maureen Daly, Pat Ball, Ray Heil, Pastor Ray Chase Absent: Geri Fialkowski, Jim Casey, Rowland Savage Mike Jacko (ex officio)

Note: Next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 13 at 4:00

The meeting convened at 3:45.

-- Al Reichelt distributed handouts.

-- The group chose Amber Hendricks to be the chair of the committee. Al Reichelt is her assistant.

Amber led us in prayer. The group chose the name: Ad Hoc Committee on Church Reform 2018.

-- The group looked at documents they had received by email.

We discussed our understanding of our task as a committee. We agreed that one of our roles is to put into action the desires of the parish members in response to the current situation in the Catholic Church. With that understanding, we looked at the results of the parish survey.

We discussed the number 1 ranked priority for the Church as a whole: "revision of power dynamics in the Church (including those between the hierarchy and the rest of the Church; between ordained and non-ordained Catholics; and those based on gender, sexual orientation, race, class, ethnicity, marital status, and other identities)." There was discussion of the word "power". There was discussion that the goal "evolution of the Church's theology of sexuality" which ranked number 4 on priorities in the survey results should be ranked higher. The point was made that this goal could be considered a part of goal number 1.

-- Colleen announced she would attend a meeting of a similar ad hoc group at St. Ignatius parish. Colleen said she would attend because part of the role of the St. Vincent Ad Hoc Committee is to be in communication with other parishes in the diocese which are taking action.

-- The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is meeting in Baltimore November 11-14. The committee agreed that we need to plan our response to this meeting. Time is a concern.

We discussed the role of the legal system in addressing the crisis in the Church. We had questions about the role of the Maryland Attorney General in the current crisis. Amber suggested that committee members may want to take a look at these sites in preparation for our next meeting: Archdiocese of Baltimore Sexual Abuse Accountability site <https://www.archbalt.org/accountability/> (including the links to Frequently Asked Questions and to Archdiocese responses to reports of abuse). State of Maryland Child Protective Services and State of Maryland Attorney General's Reporting Site These can be accessed in the Oct. 8 email from Al Reichelt titled "Revised Primary Source Documents r3"

-- Amber asked that we think about these issues and respond at the next meeting.

-- Amber has drafted a cover letter to accompany the documents the parish is sending to Archbishop Lori. We agreed that a copy of the letter will be sent to Bishop DiNardo, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The packet to Archbishop Lori, with copy to Bishop DiNardo, will include: a description of our parish process in response to the crisis, a summary of responses at the town hall meetings, the parish survey results, the approximately 100 written responses of parishioners. There was discussion of whether to also send this letter (and responses) to the Vatican's U.S. apostolic nuncio.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Maureen Daly 2018.10.08