

**St. Mark's Parish Pastoral Council 2017-09-13**  
**Minutes of Meeting**

**Date:** 2017-09-13

**In Attendance:**

Connors, Michele	Howe, Marilyn	Beyea, Dianne
Doherty, Bob	Burns, Fr. Owen	Drummond, Mavis
Brown, Sandra	Ellis, Wendy	MacDonald, Mike
Carey, Pat	Glasgow, Mary Alice	Carvell, Trinda

**Absent:**

Arsenault, Sr. Mae	Lawlor, Bill	Johnson, Kayla
Stroud, Anne		

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Pat Carey at 7:00pm.

The opening prayer was led by Fr Owen & Mavis Drummond.

The Minutes were approved on a motion by Trinda Carvell.  
Seconded by Mary Alice Glasgow.

All council members were introduced to Fr Owen.

**Business Arising from Minutes:**

Update: Mavis advised that the National Cursillo Workshop happened at the villa the weekend of Sep 9-10. She also reminded the council that efforts are underway to extend Cursillo as far as Sussex. It is currently only in Miramichi.

New PPC members were provided with a copy of the by-laws

**New Business:**

Pat reviewed the covenant describing Parish Council responsibilities. He described our job is to support the growth of the parish and to be a representative of the faith community to Fr Owen. There was some discussion on the review and the following points were made:

- The Parish council does not "control" or "manage" other committees. The PPC has an interest in various areas such as Liturgy but each committee works independently and reports to Fr Owen.
- The Parish Council will not be dissolved. Fr Owen has indicated that he would like the current structure and group to continue.
- Members of Parish Council are expected to attend each meeting and have read material in advance.
- The council is here to advise Fr Owen and he has the last say on decisions.

Pat led a discussion on the review of the current Parish Information Booklet. He noted that much of the key information is in the booklet but may be dated. There was discussion that it is important to have a flow of information from various ministries in order to keep the web site and the booklet updated. This

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has been difficult although Wendy has been working hard at getting information and updates. The council discussed the main intent of the booklet is to show what ministries are available and what happens each week – this is to communicate all the various ways for someone to get involved and to invite people to join. Some suggestions were made for improvements or changes to the booklet. These include:

- Remove references to Life Teen (2 references) as this mass no longer occurs
- Consider having the booklet refer to the website for updates
- The main cover page in the booklet did not appear in the electronic version that was circulated
- The section on new parishioners seems too wordy
- It was unclear what type of ministry training takes place or how often. Discussion indicated that any training required tends to be held "on request"
- Don't seem to have youth involved as altar servers as referenced in the booklet. Bob explained how he has engaged youth in the past. Wendy noted that the ministry is always offered to grade 8 and 9 youth, but it rarely chosen.
- Definition of marriage - remove or replace the word impending. Fr Owen will not schedule a date before interviewing. Maybe something like "planned date of marriage"
- Name for Eucharistic ministry should be changed to "extra ordinary ministers of communion" (#6 under worships)
- Pastor's name and parish numbers need update
- Suggestion that the print in the booklet be bigger

The group felt that the booklet may be too big in general and discussed what we are really trying to accomplish with it. We will need to determine who would take on the work of any changes and discuss the overall usefulness of the booklet. This item will be carried forward for discussion at the next meeting

**Parish ministry updates**

1. **Seasons of Hope:** Mavis indicated that the new session will begin Oct 24. This is offered for anyone suffering from a loss of a loved one and is open to anyone, not just members of St. Mark's. It is usually kept to 10 people. Mavis also advised that she recently became certified as a Grief Recovery Specialist. This is not for bereavement, but is aimed at people who have divorced or are suffering from other forms of grief. Seasons of Hope is a Christ based program whereas the new certification is action based.

**Update on diocesan changes**

Fr Owen provided an update on some diocesan changes, including retirements. He indicated that we are facing significant challenges but that we have an opportunity to grow.

The meeting was called to a close by Pat Carey at 8 pm.

The closing prayer was led by Pat Carey.

Next meeting will be held on October 11, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.

Minutes by Michele Connors.