

Cluster Council Minutes

December 11, 2025

The Cluster Council meeting was held on October 9, 2025, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The meeting was called to order by Father Radloff with the following members present: Jim Kriener, Joanie Swestka, Grace Arens, Jim McKone, Tom Achen, Jayda Dietzenbach, Nancy Babcock, Jean Wiemann, Joann Svendson and Evie Milbrandt. The meeting started with an opening prayer.

Meeting minutes were read and approved: Jayda / Jean
Financials were read and approved.

Old Business: Tabled from last meeting were election of Council Officers. Father did share that there would be some additional signing in our transition.

President: Jim Kriener

Vice President: Tom Achen

Secretary: Evie Milbrandt

Journey in Faith data has been submitted. We will more than likely see groupings of parishes shared shortly after Easter.

New Business:

Needs, suggestions and input was asked of the Council for moving forward with the next priest and parochial vicar.

- Dialogue happened concerning how original groupings happened when there were three parishes brought together and then six. Parish meetings were held in a central location and the priest moved from group to group to aid in not having multiple meetings. This may be something that is looked at again.

- Dialogue and input were asked as to what would be needed for our new and larger cluster.

- The possibility of budgeting for a person to aid the priests and create consistency was suggested. In previous, but smaller clusters, Sr. Louann Doering acted as an assistant to the parish, as well as the Wheelers. Some things included liturgy work, sacristan work, ministering to the homebound and those in nursing homes and funeral assistance. Many on the Council like the fact that a connection from their own current parish is appreciated at times of grieving a loved one.

- The possibility of a survey would allow for input for Mass times and scheduling. Fr. noted that three Masses per weekend and six altogether will be the most possible moving forward. There will be weekday Masses. Consistent times moving forward works best for all.

- Suggestions for building community, especially in the first weeks were taken. Past picnics/outdoor Mass for the Cluster happened. Rolls and coffee after Mass was a thought.

- The thought of having the priest meet with current and new members of ministries to create consistency. Choir, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, mass servers, funeral liaisons, etc.

Closing prayer and meeting adjournment at 8:03 p.m. The next meeting will be March 26, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Evie Milbrandt