

Cluster Council Minutes

March 26, 2026

The Cluster Council meeting was held on March 26, 2026, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The meeting was called to order by Father Radloff with the following members present: Merle Reicks, Jeff Jirak, Joan Swestka, Grace Arens, Tom Achen, Jayda Dietzenbach, Nancy Babcock, Joann Svendson and Evie Milbrandt. The meeting started with an opening prayer.

Meeting minutes were read and approved: Joan and Jayda

Financials were read and approved. Father said our total income was ahead of our total expenses and that we were in a healthy state. He shared there were a few slight changes from last year in the way a few expenses were shared. A payment was split due to the upcoming changes in July and we saved on technology due to no phone system expense this year due to that being resolved last year.

Old Business:

A parish database software called FlockNote was looked at and supported by the finance councils to help streamline alerts and notifications to parishioners, but this will be tabled for the time being as to wait and see who we are paired with. We will want to have a similar system moving forward.

New Business:

Journey in Faith - A document was shared with all council members called Council, Commission, & Committee Guidance for Year One of *Journey in Faith* Implementation 2026-27. Father explained that the Christ Our Hope Cluster has done an outstanding job of streamlining our parish workflow. We are ahead of so many others in the way in which we handle meetings and our overall organizational structure. What we are already doing is basically what the Diocese is looking to do moving forward. Our Cluster Council will eventually be a broader Pastoral Commission. More than likely, we will have 9+ parishes in our Pastorate and there will be 9 - 16 members representing the various parishes. There will be no elections this year, rather tonight Cluster Council members were asked to discern their desire to serve on the new Pastorate Pastoral Commission. Appointments would be made to these positions after letters of interest were received, outgoing priests had time to visit with incoming priests, and incoming priests had time to formally meet with those showing interest and meeting expectations indicated in the document shared. All letters of interest were kindly asked to be turned into the parish office addressed to Father by April 30th. Father shared that he'd also share a link if people wanted to submit online or download a copy for typing purposes. Members would serve a one-year term. According to the document, Pastorate Pastoral Commission members would meet monthly with a primary focus of Pastorate Implementation and Pastorate Finance Commission members would meet monthly but with a focus of shared Pastorate expenses and budget. Individual parish pastoral and finance councils would meet less often.

Like committees that are currently existing in individual parishes will move to pastorate committees. The goal is to have these created by June 30, 2027.

Our Pastorate will likely look for a Director of Evangelization, whether that person be from within the Pastorate or a job search performed to find candidates. This will likely be a full-time position. Another possible job will be a Director of Operations. The Pastor will be assisted by the Pastoral and Finance Commissions in these searches.

Meeting adjournment - Merle/Nancy. Closing prayer - Fr. Radloff. Next meeting - June 4, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Evie Milbrandt