

**Christ our Hope Pastoral Cluster Council Minutes**  
**Thursday, July 25 2019**  
**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Lawler Iowa.**

The Pastoral Cluster Council of six parishes: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Little Turkey (ABVM), Holy Trinity in Protivin (HT), Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Lawler (OLMC), St. John Nepomucene in Fort Atkinson (SJN), St. Luke in St. Lucas (SL), and St. Mary in Waucoma (SM) held its meeting on Thursday, July 25, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church Lawler, Iowa. Attendance is below.

Adoration~ 6:30 PM Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Lawler Iowa

		Member	7-25-2019						
ABVM	2019	Steve Busta - Chair	P						
SL	2019	Clair Blong - Vice-Pres.	P						
SM	2019	Maxine Balk, Secretary	A						
SL	2019	Melvin Bodensteiner	P						
SL	2019	Barbara Shatek	P						
ABVM	2019	Leon Wiemann	A						
OLMC	2019	Julianne Kout	P						
SM	2019	Kathleen Chicken	P						
SL	2019	Roger Ott	P						
HT	2019	Cheryl Mracek	A						

Others Present were:  
 Rev. Aaron Junge, Pastoral Minister: Grace Arnes.

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Rev. Junge, at 7:00 p.m. **Hail Mary, full of grace. Our Lord is with you, Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

Minutes from June 20, 2019- The pastoral cluster council reviewed the minutes. No changes were noted. Questions: for Terra about OTHER incomes? What are the different types of income? Archdiocese of Dubuque annual Financial Report: differences on Cluster Receipts 170,122 Profit & loss total incomes 167,624.71 Should these be equal? Addressed/Questioned by Kyle Fencil.

**Old Business**-None noted.

**New Business:**

1. Update on Trinity Catholic School- “Reflection and Change” Updated with Principle Brown. Presently 27 families are enrolled this coming school year. Forty Four students are accounted to participate 2019. Numbers are down along with funds are decreasing. Catholic schools in general are in serious, even desperate financial trouble. Could the school increase the tuition fees? Would this work? The financial structure is not looking all that good. When fees are increased or elevated some people will be left behind. Some parents will feel compelled to move children to our public schools. Parish money fundraising campaigns and or donations cannot handle the raising of expenses. Note: Funds from savings is helping. But, the question is for how long? Even closing school presents risk of financial loss. Clearly, closing a school must make difficult decisions. Uncertainties and ramifications far beyond the immediate budget issues. Closing a school may be the right decision, but it should always be a last resort. Meeting is planned for Father Aaron Junge, Parents, Committees, School Board, and the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Father

needs feedback from all. In any event, the closing of our Catholic School is more than a financial problem. It's the growing or lack of interest in our faith, our church and our institution.

2. Mission and Vision of Cluster: Where do we want to be in 10 years? . Change is needed. Faith formation will continue, along with family engagements. Different programs? History of our churches will be a plus. Rediscovering our local history. Classes will be for adults and children.

\*What is our Mission? Thinking our Mission is to worship with one another in prayer, Liturgy and sacraments.

Presentation of parish numbers:

How do we address the following concerns:

- A. Reduction in numbers, related to demographics?
- B. Declining engagement in liturgical ministries?
- C. Difficulties engaging families with young/school-aged children
- D. Lack of willingness/ability to serve various cluster committee roles?

Brainstorming: Outpour of reaching out to "Our People". Where will we be in 10 years? How can we better serve the needs of our parishes? Socialization? Have a heart to reach out to our community. Let's be more creative? Change mass times or add a mass time? Town home meeting are these still happening? Get ahead of problems? Growing in our faith Growing as a child of God? Children Masses? Stick around after Mass is over? Home: the domestic church and or family has decreased numbers and or reductions of members. So, no people no attendance no income? No more large families. St. Lukes has a great number of new members going to be born next year 21 new babies? Father needs ideas! Reaching out to all.

Questions for next time: Best way to survey the cluster for thoughts/ concerns about the future? How do we communicate a vision?

Closing Prayer: Glory Be: **Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Meeting Adjourned 8:00pm~ Chairman Steve Busta

Next meeting Checking on date:

Submitted notes,

Julianne Kout