**Christ our Hope Pastoral Cluster Council Minutes**

**Thursday, May 8, 2014**

**Protivin Community Center, Protivin, 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, May 8, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. at the Protivin Community Center in Protivin, Iowa. Attendance is below.

Attendance: \*2 – Denotes they are no longer eligible for re-election.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Member | 8/1/13 | 9/5/13 | 10/10/13 | 11-19-13 | 1-30-14 | 3-20-14 | 5-8-14 |  |  |  |
| SM | 2016-2 | Hemesath, Ken - Chair | P | P | P | A | P | P | A |  |  |  |
| SL | 2016-2 | Franzen, Jim – Vice-Pres. | P | P | A | P | P | P | A |  |  |  |
| SM | 2015-2 | Dietzenbach, Cathy - Sec. | P | P | P | P | A | P | P |  |  |  |
| ABVM | 2014 | Reicks, Carl replacing Throndson, Renee | na | na | na | A | P | P | A |  |  |  |
| ABVM | 2015-2 | Kuennen, Mike | P | A | A | A | A | A | P |  |  |  |
| ABVM | 2016 | Barloon, Gary | P | P | A | P | P | P | A |  |  |  |
| HT | 2016-2 | Swestka, Joan | P | P | P | P | P | P | P |  |  |  |
| HT | 2014 | Dietzenbach, Donna | P | P | A | P | P | P | A |  |  |  |
| HT | 2015-2 | Shindelar, Allan | P | P | A | P | P | P | P |  |  |  |
| OLMC | 2014-2 | Lynch, Pat | P | P | P | P | P | A | P |  |  |  |
| OLMC | 2015 | Babcock, Claude | P | P | P | P | P | P | P |  |  |  |
| OLMC | 2016 | Sheridan, Patrick | P | P | P | P | P | P | P |  |  |  |
| SJN | 2014 | Kriener, Brenda | P | P | P | P | A | A | P |  |  |  |
| SJN | 2015 | Thuente, John | A | A | P | P | A | P | P |  |  |  |
| SJN | 2016 | Schmitt, Steve | P | P | P | P | P | P | P |  |  |  |
| SL | 2014-2 | Franzen, Renae | P | P | P | P | P | P | P |  |  |  |
| SL | 2015 | Langreck, Kerry | P | A | A | A | A | P | A |  |  |  |
| SM | 2014 | Burke, Carole | P | A | P | P | P | A | P |  |  |  |
| LOC |  | Achen, Tom | A | A | A | P | A | P | A |  |  |  |

Others present were:

Rev. Nick March, Pastor.

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Rev. March at 7:01 p.m.

Rev. March informed the council that Ralph Davis is a summer seminarian placement with Christ our Hope Cluster. He will be here for 8 weeks and live with Rev. March. The Archbishop feels that Father and our cluster is a good fit for him.

The office in Protivin will be closed on Tuesday, June 10, as the carpet in the office will be replaced. If the carpet is not completely installed, the office may also need to be closed on Wednesday, June 11.

The cluster mission is scheduled for June 8, 9 and 10. The bulletin will be used for announcements. There will be a lot packed into these days with lectures, potluck, prayer and adoration. Signs of Christ will also attend and perform.

Rev. March went over Option 1 and Option 2 for mass times beginning July 12-13. Each option has advantages and disadvantages. Father asked the council for their thoughts on the mass times, alternating weekends, and keeping in mind the attendance of regular parishioners in their home parish. The consensus moved towards Option 2 as a workable schedule. It offers consistent times throughout the year, and still gives parishes their most favorable time in terms of attendance for at least part of the year. This option was published in the bulletin on May 17-18 and is as follows:

Summer (begins first full weekend in April)

(a) weekend:

Sat 4pm Lawler

Sun 8:30am Protivin

Sun 10:30am St. Lucas

(b) weekend:

Sat 4pm Fort Atkinson

Sun 8:30am Waucoma

Sun 10:30 Little Turkey

Winter (begins first full weekend in October)

(a) weekend:

Sat 4pm Lawler

Sun 8:30am Protivin

Sun 10:30am St. Lucas

(b) weekend:

Sat 4pm Waucoma

Sun 8:30am Fort Atkinson

Sun 10:30 Little Turkey

Rev. March discussed the current staff in relationship to services needed. In the past, the cluster has had pastoral ministers and a business manager. Rev. March wants the staff to focus on our parishioners, minister to our people and people of need, and work with families in a systematic way after a funeral. We need to celebrate our volunteers, thank our servers and musicians, and get more training on spiritual enrichment. The staff should also work with registering new parishioners, follow up with people after marriage, and work on liturgies. Three areas of emphasis should be preaching, hospitality and music. Rev. March asked for ideas as to serving our parishes. The blessing of seeds at the Easter mass was one way of nurturing our faith. An interview committee was put together for Father’s assistance. The committee will be Pat Sheridan, Allan Shindelar and Cathy Dietzenbach.

The Employee Handbook does not include a 401(k) match of 1%. Father asked the Council what they thought about beginning to offer this to Cluster employees, at least those that work in the cluster office. The Council favored this benefit, at a minimum of a 1% match. Other areas of current employees that were discussed are a 5-day workweek or an altered 4-day workweek to cover Monday through Friday.

Due to the time discussed on matters, there was not enough time to cover the reading assignment of Forming Intentional Disciples Chapters 7 and 8. This discussion was tabled until June 12. At that meeting, the council will also review the budget for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

The Cluster Retreat was held in April and had 33 registrants with half being new and half returning. There were 8 or 9 from other parishes. The cluster has a team in place and they will be meeting tomorrow night to discuss possibly a one-day retreat option or other possibilities.

The next meeting is June 12, 2014. At 8:35 p.m. the meeting closed with the “Our Father” as the closing prayer.

In the order stated,

Cathy Dietzenbach