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| P1C1T1#y1 | **Meeting Minutes**  **Pax Christi Monthly Council Meeting** | **COMMUNITY COUNCIL** |

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| **Council:** | **Community Council** | |
| **Meeting Date:** | **December 12, 2023** | |
| **Minutes Prepared By:** | **Debbie Hemann** | |
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| **Attendees:** | **Michelle Fox (Staff)** | **Bruce Koehn** |
| **Phyllis Olson** | **Lekha Pauly** |
| **Dave Putrich (Chair)** | **Dan Ward** |
| **Tom Payne** | **Bill Kozik** |
| **Anita Lang** | **Liz Mach** |
| **Marc Nosal** | **Patti Christensen** |
| **Beth Neubrech** |  |
|  |  |
| **Absent:** | **Fr. William Murtaugh** | **Becky Jensen** |
| **Guest:** | **Natalie Jacobwith** |  |

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm by Dave Putrich

**Prayer:** Dan Ward

* **November Meeting Minutes:**

Dave Putrich

Approved

* **Hospitality Focus:**

Dave Putrich and all those present

1. **The Ministry Council’s meeting minutes reflect key statements/learnings.**
2. **Challenge: Each Council should put together a list of bullet points of descriptions for the January ALL Participant Meeting on January 16, 2024**
3. **What the Hospitality Focus mean (things to think about):**
   * During Covid Pax Livestreamed Masses. We fell out of the practice of “Welcoming the remote people who cannot be with us.
     + Worship Council challenges everyone to get to know 1 new person every week at mass.
     + During Small Group environments, ask the group who they know that might be interested or could benefit from going the group you are in.
     + Personally invite via asking directly to join you at a function or group.
4. **January Meeting – Joint Session:** Deacon Charles Bobertz will be here to talk to us about this book. A student of his at St. John’s University authored this book. We will all gather as we did in September. The seating will be mixed up so council members will be sitting with other council members. In preparation of this meeting, make sure to read, “**Welcome All as Christ**” **Reimaging Parish Hospitality** Book.
5. **Articles for Pax Christi News Magazine:** Starting in the January 2024 issue of the magazine we are asking for two articles about the separate councils to be written by Council Leaders. For January Dave Putrich and Michelle Fox have already submitted the first articles. Deadline for submitting article to the Magazine is always on the First of each month prior. The schedule for each article for council are as follows:

**February – Due January 1, 2024**

* Marc Nosal/ Michelle Fox
* Anita Lang / Joan Miltenberger

**March – Due February 1, 2024**

* Beth Neubrech / Laurie Youngers
* Dan Kohler / Dan Ward

**April - Due March 1, 2024**

* Liz Mach / Joan Howe-Pullis
* Becky Jensen / Maura Schnorbach

**May – Due April 1, 2024**

* Pattie Christensen / Scott Brazil
* Finance - Bill / Sue Fier
* **Revitalize Mass attendance:**

Dave Putrich and Michelle Fox

Bring ideas of how to increase the number of people coming to church.

* + - * Welcoming all to livestream
      * Introduce people to others.
      * Demonstrate hospitality.
      * Reinstitute the phone bank that the Worship Council used for several years, calling groups of parishioners to encourage attendance.
        + Reinstitute the 'Meal with the Pastor’ for new members (each quarter).
        + Have the front desk person trained to answer FAQs at weekend Masses or more of a Welcome Desk or reception Desk.
        + Reinstitute the presider recognizing new members and visitors at weekend Masses.

Suggestions:

* Find out what other churches are doing.
* Use the knowledge of the people, what are you interested in?
* Mentorship – Almost a “Buddy” set up, someone who can assist the new members/families to navigate what Pax Christi offers.
* New/Updated Welcome Packets – Needs more gusto! A more welcoming presentation of the generic Welcome Packets we have now.
  + Think like the Welcoming Committee when you move into a new home.
  + What do other churches use?
* Pasta with the Padre: Dinner for new members, and families with the Priest
  + Was previously done at Pax.
  + First Event for New Members from July – December on February 4, after 11:00 am Mass.
  + A member from each council should attend to answer any questions about their particular council or ministry that come up.
  + Food will be catered and served family style.

Looking at the schedule/calendar and determine if we have too many activities or if some activities could be combined so there is not so many.

* At one time Mary Kennedy had counted the activities in one year and there were 168.
* Need to access the list of current activities and find the delicate balance.

What can we do to attract the younger generations?

* Making the Mass separate from the “Social” experience.

What makes us different?

* Vatican 2
* Dave looked over the Pax website and could not find much information about Vatican 2. Must review.
* **Relevance of church/religion to young generations:**

Dave Putrich and Michelle Fox

3 Groups:

* High School (Confirmed)
* College Age (20-22 yrs. old) – This is the hardest group to reach and involve.
* Young Adults (23-30 yrs. old)

Pull in Shannon Rouston and Natalie Jacobwith: They are in the Young Adults age group.

* Hold sessions – send personal invites (text, letters, email, etc.)
* Use our database (Parish Soft) to pull out names and contact information for our Young Adult community.
* Send survey.

It has been said that college age young people that grew up at Pax Christi in the Vatican 2 model and are now going to church while away at college are finding that the churches are pre-Vatican 2, and they are not liking the conservative atmosphere. How could we show our support for those people? It was suggested we send messages (via email/text or snail mail – everyone likes to get mail!) and tell them we are thinking about them at finals time, etc.

* **Hospitality and Community Outreach:**

Marc Nosal

Marc talked about how he is struggling with the Hospitality and Community Outreach Council and what is its purpose?

* Should Hospitality and Community Outreach be a part of EVERY council?
* The Hospitality and Community Outreach council was created in 2018 when it was separated from the Stewardship Council.
* Which ministries are under each council?
* Seems to be a common theme.
* What is the right number of councils? Do we have too many/or not enough?
* Councils vs. Committees.
* This may be a question that is presented at the January 16th meeting.
* **Michelle’s Thoughts:**
  + Natalie Jacobwith started on Monday, November 27th as the Communications Director
    - Seems to be a great fit with lots of ideas and enthusiasm.
* Maura Schnorbach has decided to retire from her Director of Lay Leadership Development and Engagement position.
  + Her last day will be December 27th.
  + We will have a going away luncheon for her before she goes.
  + This position will be posted very soon.
  + Still have the Part-time Care and Support Funeral Coordinator position open, however we have been interviewing and are getting much closer to making an offer to a candidate.
  + Still searching for Part-time Hospitality Coordinator
    - Contact us in the office if you know anyone who might be interested in these positions.
  + The nursery is going to be open during the Sunday, 5:00 pm masses starting on January 7th only on the weekends when there is Faith Formation.

# Motion to adjourn at 6:26 pm by Anita Lang and seconded by Bill Kozik.

# Next Meeting: January 16, 2024

# Prayer for January 16th: Beth Neubrech