

**Cathedral of the Assumption
November 20, 2014 Parish Council Meeting**

Those present: Margaret Brosko, George Kaissieh Paul Kelty, Barby Knebelkamp, Jack Lydon, Vicki Maruca, Brenda McWaters, Paul Najjar, Fr. Jeff Nicolas, Rick O’Daniel-Munger, John Smart, Leslie Smart, Eric Thorne, Angela Wiggins, Tom Zimmerman, and Deacon Chris McDonell.

I. Opening Prayer

The meeting was called to order, and Angela Wiggins led the group in the opening prayer.

II. Minutes

The minutes of the October Parish Council meeting were approved as submitted.

III. Finance Report

Tom Zimmerman reported that Sunday offerings are down, but because of two generous bequests, we are currently operating in the black.

The council revisited Father Jeff’s proposal of a “Group of 7” parishioners to guide and promote parishioner investment in the parish, to be pro-active in spotlighting the need for tithing increase. The council recommended that each member of the group have a passion for the parish. It was the consensus of the council to proceed with formation of the “Group of 7.” Names of council members willing to serve are Leslie Smart, Margaret Brosko, Brenda McWaters, and Paul Kelty. Other parishioner names will be submitted to Fr. Nicolas. Leslie Smart added that throughout the Archdiocese (as mentioned at the Fall PCAL meeting), philanthropy to parishes lags behind donations to other non-profit organizations, in order to ensure long term sustainability.

Fr. Nicolas also distributed a breakdown of parish contributions by weekend Mass times for analysis.

The Administration and Finance Committee has assumed oversight for our annual Feed_My Neighbor fundraising event.

IV. Committee Reports

Communication – Discipleship center template has been designed and will be built by our maintenance team once the other construction project in the office building is completed. The promotion form for events was presented to council members who offered suggestions for improvement. (The revised form was sent to members the day after the meeting.)

FeedMyNeighbor events: Jazz Night at the Seelbach on February 28; main event on June 27 at the Marriott; committee is actively recruiting auction items already.

Worship – Paul Najjar reported the all will look and sound great for the coming season. It was also recommended a Constant Contact letter go out to the parish regarding Thanksgiving Day Mass, hat and glove collection, and blessing of food items.

V. New Business – Time Line for Selection of Parish Council At-Large Members

Rick O’Daniel-Munger shared with the council some of the processes used in the past for the selection of new at-large members for the parish council. There is not a specific process in our current constitution or by-laws. Members weighed in on the material. (Since the meeting, Mr. O’Daniel-Munger has reworked the process for council approval and adoption at the December 2014 meeting).

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Wiggins, Secretary