

**STA Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**  
**August 8, 2023**  
**Newman/Bethany Room, 7:00 PM**

**Present:** Dawn Bratsch-Prince, secretary; Holly Carter; Fr. Kyle Digmann; Scott Law, chair; Ronnie Lindeman; Luke Novak, vice chair; Ryan Schiltz; Joni Ward, Stewardship Committee; Troy Weary; Elizabeth Tranel.

**Guest:** Roxanne Stokker, Faith Formation Committee.

**Absent:** Peter Orazem, Finance Council.

**I. Call to order at 7:00 pm with opening prayer by Joni Ward.**

**II. Welcome and introductions by all members of the Council.**

**III. Called and Gifted Program proposal**

Roxanne Stokker, member of Faith Formation, presented to the Pastoral Council a proposal seeking funding to support the Called and Gifted Program which guides participants to discernment of their gifts. It is a two-year program. The first year of the program teaches about oneself; the second year is about serving others. The cost for a year of virtual training is \$1500 (plus \$44/person). For live (in-person) training, the cost is \$3750 (plus \$22/person). There is also a one-day workshop available. The Pastoral Council will consider the various options and get a decision to Faith Formation.

**IV. Pastoral initiatives review**

The Council reviewed the list of nine initiatives that the Parish has been working on the past two years:

1. Maximize use of Realm: on target.
2. Communication ministry: on hold.
3. Catholic social teaching: on target.
4. ISU social justice speakers: unclear. Dawn will be liaison with this group.
5. Enhance CAYAS presence and outreach: off target.
6. Young family small group: on target
7. Next steps following sacraments and life changes: on target.
8. Build a personal invitation system: off target, but moving in the right direction with time and talent.
9. Family mass: unclear. Lisa Schmidt, our new director of faith formation, will be working on this.

The Pastoral Council will continue to review these nine initiatives throughout the year and determine next steps.

**V. Parish Picnic debrief**

The picnic was deemed a success. There was a very good turnout of parishioners from all age groups. The setting was comfortable and served our needs. The Inis Grove playground is a great benefit for younger parishioners and families. Council members recognized the efforts of the Stewardship Committee to oversee the organization and the Knights of Columbus for their

cooking skills! The format of the picnic seems to work but we agreed that we'll want to have a theme or some other draw to keep the event fresh and appealing to parishioners.

**VI. Stewardship Sunday (weekend of November 11/12)**

Fr. Kyle is seeking ideas for a speaker or speakers for Stewardship Sunday weekend (Nov. 11-12). We discussed the idea was raised of a publication of some type to encourage stewardship. The publishers Decided Excellence can assist us in producing a semi-annual "magazine" or report that would contain content by parishioners. The content would include personal reflections of STA parishioners on stewardship. The publisher would take the content and prepare it in an appealing format. The publisher would also be responsible for mailing it to STA parishioners, one issue in November and another in April. If we move forward with this, it would be an internally focused publication for our parish audience. This is different from the mailings on campus ministry that our development office sends out to alumni and parents.

**VII. Pastor's report**

STA welcomed several new staff members over the summer: Fr. Casey Flack, new associate pastor; Lisa Schmidt, director of faith formation; Aurelia Isenbart, director of campus ministry; and Deacon Joel Schmidt. Deacon Joel has experience with ministry for couples who have suffered the loss of a child. He may also explore starting a men's group. Campus ministry is gearing up for the start of the fall semester.

**VIII. Students' report**

Current student parishioners have been calling the incoming Catholic freshman to welcome them to the community and to STA. This is an important personal outreach. The students see Aurelia as very organized, and they look forward to working with her this year.

**IX. The meeting ended at 8:04 PM.**

**X. Opening prayer leaders for future meetings:**

9/12 - Troy  
10/10 - Holly  
11/14 - Luke  
12/12 - Ronnie  
1/9 - Dawn  
2/13 - Elizabeth  
3/12 - Scott  
4/9 - Ryan  
5/14 - Joni  
6/12 - Peter