

Minutes of St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting
October 16, 2008
7:30-9:00 pm

Present: Fr. Murray, Mary Taylor, Natalie Simek, Fr. John Sharp, Mark Van Den Bossche, Butch Cavender, Greg Denomme, Cherylann Grace, Langoya Johnson, Emma Markle, Pam Beker

Opening Prayer: led by Fr. Murray

- Many points were shared by members during the reflections of the gospel.

Amendments to Agenda:

- Mark added a Finance Report on behalf of Pam and Nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair were inserted.
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Review of November minutes:

- There were no formal minutes from the September meeting.

1) Finance Report

Pam reported on the debt (down to \$55,000), Pre Authorized giving increased and the Goals of the Finance Committee for 2008 (eliminate the debt, focus on capital acquisitions such as the kitchen, furnace, legacy capitol, stewardship, and transparency. A discussion was also held purchasing 500 hymnals, totaling \$8300 at \$13 per book. As well, the committee is starting to think about the costs and goals for our centennial year in 2011.

2) Stewardship Update

Vincent Taylor introduced the cover letter for the Stewardship letter. A good discussion was held and a number of changes were recommended. A discussion was also held about all of the other fundraisers held in the church. A good question asked was why we continue to hold as many collections and fundraisers when the tenant of a Stewardship Parish is to centralize giving.

3) Feast Day

Feast Day went well again this year. The numbers were down from past years but all seemed to have a good time. Emma reported on a number of games held for the kids that was very popular.

4) Pastoral team Update

Natalie reported that the youth commission was proceeding and she also indicated that the Confirmation retreat would be held in December this year.

Mary reported that there are 18 RCIA candidates this year. The Newcomers luncheon would be held at 1130 on October 19th, 2008.

Fr. John commented on the positive, viable and welcoming community that St. Michaels is. He suggested that we build on inclusion and begin by getting the African Community involved. Langoya was asked to investigate if the African Community would agree to attend one of the regular masses in the near future.

Fr. Murray mentioned that Fr. Phillip would lead a mission on Nov 23-26 on the Eucharist. He also mentioned that Christmas masses are scheduled for 5, 7, 9 on Christmas Eve and Midnight, 1030, and 1230 on Christmas Day.

Teachers are scheduling monthly masses and classroom celebrations.

The Ministry Fair will be held Nov 1, 2. Mark indicated that he would be contacting members of the council to solicit volunteers for the Fair.

Fr. Murray also said that our bus is nearly full, thanks in part to the African Community.

He also requested that St. Michaels 100th Anniversary celebration be on the next agenda.

He also mentioned that the African Community children face challenges in school, and in faith. A strong mentoring program is in place to overcome these difficulties.

5) Nominations

Vice Chair- Mark explained that even though Karen was absent, she had indicated that she was willing to stand for Vice Chair. There being no nominations from the floor, Pam motioned that Karen be appointed Vice-Chair and Cherylann seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favour.

Chair- Mark explained that even though Gerry was absent, he had indicated his willingness to stand for Chair. There being no nominations from the floor, Butch motioned that Gerry be elected Chair and Pam seconded. The vote was unanimous in favour.

Secretary- Fr. Murray asked all to consider anyone they knew who might be interested in being Secretary. The council was asked to pass those suggestions on the Fr. Murray.

6) Good News from the pews

The Newsletter received several favourable comments. A few mentioned how beautiful the altar was for Thanksgiving.

Next meeting: November 20, 2008

Closing Prayer was led by Fr. Murray.