

**Minutes of the Twenty Third Combined Parish Pastoral Council Meeting  
Sacred Heart and St. Brigid Parishes  
in Closed Session  
Sacred Heart Parish Center Hall  
Lexington, Massachusetts  
February 11, 2007 7:00 p.m.**

**Parish Pastoral Council Members in Attendance:**

Rev. Arnold F. Colletti, Gerald Abegg, Dot Boggia, Jack Cunha, Frank DiPietro, Mary Ellen Goodwin, Jane Goubeaux, Donna Heuchling, Marie Hill, Donna Hooper, Fran Ludwig, John Mahoney, Stephen McKenna

**Other Attendees:**

**Staff:** Suzie Barry, George Begin, Megan Chenaille, Claire Martin, Rev. William Smith, Anne Willhite

**Facilitator:** Father Robert McMillan

**Meeting Purpose:**

*To continue the discussion about the Catholic Community in Lexington.*

The meeting was called to order by Father Colletti at 7:15 p.m.

Father Colletti introduced Bill Cimino, a Sacred Heart Parishioner who asked to speak to the Council. Mr. Cimino shared his experiences of the past several months with the Council Members concerning issues and actions surrounding the lack of a decision and the hurt/fear that continues to go on. Mr. Cimino stated he would be in full support of a 2 Parish/1 Pastor plan with the right things combined.

Father Colletti led the Council members in the Opening Prayer.

**Review of Meeting Minutes 1/21/07:**

*(Note: The Meeting Minutes from the Combined PPC meeting on 1/21/07 had been emailed to Council members prior to the 2/11/07 meeting for review and were included in each Council member's package of information distributed at the 2/11/07 meeting.)*

Council Member Donna Heuchling asked if there were any errors or omissions in regards to the meeting minutes from the Combined Parish Pastoral Council Meeting of 1/21/07. Council Member John Mahoney directed members to page 2, paragraph 4, line 4 and asked that the rest of the sentence after the word "and" be replaced with "that both Parishes need to find point of unity"

Ms. Heuchling called for a motion to approve the minutes from the closed session of the Combined Parish Pastoral Council Meeting of 1/21/07 as amended. Council Member John Mahoney made the motion. Council Member Frank DiPietro seconded the motion. Verbal vote taken. Motion passed.

**Mission Statement:**

Ms. Heuchling acknowledged the work done on the draft mission statement by Council Members Fran Ludwig and Steve McKenna. Ms. Ludwig explained the process by which the draft mission was developed and the sources consulted included: the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Mission Statement, the current Mission Statements of Sacred Heart and Saint Brigid, draft Mission Statements from 2005 workgroups, sample Mission Statement provided by Mary Ellen Goodwin and statements of what is valued and desired by parishioners from the parishes' survey of 2006. Council Member John Mahoney indicated he had contributed material as well. Ms. Ludwig stated it was received after the deadline given to members. Council Members reacted to the draft by asking for clarification from Ms. Ludwig & Mr. McKenna to some words and phrases and also made suggestions of things that were left out. Father McMillan acknowledged it is a common sticking point in many Parishes when working on a Mission Statement as to how to accurately phrase what a Parish is or dreams to be due to its diversity not only in culture but in style of worship as well. He suggested trying to phrase what it would be like when all is at its very best. Mr. Mahoney asked why the word Parish was only in the title and not in the body of the Mission Statement. Ms. Ludwig indicated the Mission statement is for the entire community and not specific to one Parish. Father McMillan also spoke of Pope John Paul, II's letter on the Millennium and the spirituality of the community; it is not based upon a desire for uniformity but a blending of legitimate diversities. Father Colletti inquired as to what the next steps with the Mission Statement would be. Ms. Heuchling suggested that at the next Council meeting using the mission statement as a starting point and breaking into small work groups to work on overarching goals, then working on the goals for the commissions and finally getting the mission out to the Parishioners. Mr. Mahoney spoke of the need to get the Mission Statement out to the Parishioners and receive their feedback. Ms. Ludwig spoke of using the Mission Statement as a yard stick to measure how things are going and inquired about having the Mission Statement incorporated onto the cover of the bulletin. Ms. Ludwig read the revised Mission Statement as follows:

***Draft Mission Statement for the Catholic Parishes of  
Sacred Heart and Saint Brigid  
Lexington, Massachusetts***

*Called by God, rooted in Jesus Christ, and guided by the Holy Spirit,  
we commit ourselves*

*to create and nurture the Catholic Christian community:*

*to learn, love and share our Catholic Faith;*

*to worship God in Word and Sacrament, centered in the Eucharistic celebration:*

*to provide opportunities to enrich our prayer and our spiritual lives;*

*to acknowledge and embrace diversity in our community;*

*to serve those in need and to work together for social justice;*

*to welcome all who seek communion with God;*

*and to reconcile ourselves with God and one another.*

Council Member Gerry Abegg spoke of the need to get the Mission Statement out to the Parishioners sooner rather than later for feedback via the Bulletin, Web Site and Listserv. Mr. McKenna suggested that Parishioners come to the March Council Meeting with feedback. Mr. Mahoney expressed his regret again that for the third straight meeting there was no audience of Parishioners. Anne Willhite stated it was important that all of the members be comfortable with

the draft so they can truly support it. All Council Members present stated they could support the draft.

**Father Colletti's Concerns:**

Father Colletti spoke of the ground swell of emotions that have been experienced when a Parish is threatened. The question needs to be asked "What have we learned? What does this turmoil teach us?" People have pulled back due to fear. He spoke of the pastoral needs of people after the decision as being greater than before; there will be a need for ministry; people are hungry and will be looking for something. Father Colletti spoke of the need for a win/win situation for all and stated he does not want to hear "we won, you lost". He spoke of the need to be sensitive to the Parish family, history and identity and the thin line between Church, assembly and building. Father Colletti stated the Cardinal has been away but he anticipates a letter sometime soon; he does not know what will be in the letter. He will notify the Council Members when it arrives and there will be a meeting. Father Colletti also stated he takes exception to the talk surrounding him not being forthcoming with finances.

**Goals:**

Mr. Abegg stated he would get the list of the commissions and sub groups to the Council Members to start working on goals. He stated there are four things to consider when writing a goal; 1. It needs to be clear, 2. It needs to be attainable, 3. It needs to be measurable 4. It needs to be prioritized. Ms. Heuchling talked about the need to get reports back from the Commissions about their work and also get meeting minutes from them; not all of the Commissions have PPC liaisons. She also mentioned as two global goals: outreach/evangelization and communication and how the Commissions could work with these goals.

**Open/Closed Council Meetings:**

Mr. Abegg asked the Council members for their feelings if the next Council Meeting should be in open session or closed session. Mr. McKenna recommended open session as did Ms. Ludwig, Ms. Heuchling and Mr. Mahoney. Mr. Abegg made a motion for the Council Meeting on March 11, 2007 being held in open session, Mr. McKenna seconded the motion. Verbal vote taken, with one in the negative, motion approved.

Council Member Jane Goubeaux asked for clarification as to why there has been outcry from Sacred Heart Parishioners concerning more financial information. Ms. Heuchling indicated in her personal opinion, it comes from a fear of not making the numbers may cause further diminishment. She also stated a lack of clear understanding with Parishioners surrounding the 100K figure mentioned for the refurbishment of Sacred Heart Church. Father McMillan indicated that while awaiting a decision from the Cardinal, the Archdiocese would not allow large amounts to be spent for either Parish.

**NEXT MEETING:** Sunday, March 11, 2007, 7:00 p.m. in Keilty Hall at Saint Brigid Church

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzie Barry