

Newman Center Christ Church
Parish Council Meeting Minutes for May 19, 2009

Newman Center Christ Church is a dynamic faith community, for and with St. Cloud State University students, faculty, and staff, stretching to live out the gospel message in the Spirit of Vatican II. Our mission is to build for the future by being Christ's

Challenging Word

Inspiring Spirit

Living Service

Present: Jerry Theis, Joan Abfalter, Warren Christie, Ken Bettin, Fr. Tony Oelrich, Karl Heine, Alan Lawrence, Mike Ernst, Matt Kehrer, Christy Trettel, Wendy Cichanski, Simon Schoborg, Ann Backowski, Wayne Braith

1. Prayer and reflection – Led by Warren

2. Introductions/Welcome new members

Each member introduced themselves and a welcome was extended to the new members (Ken, Alan, Simon). Wendy wished to express the thanks to all those members who will be leaving the council after this meeting (Karl, Ann, Warren, Joan, and Jerry). Their service and dedication to Newman is greatly appreciated. Discussion on gender equity was brought up, with there being all male permanent members on the council. It was agreed that this should be addressed in next year's Parish Council meetings as it is not addressed in the Parish Council Constitution. The Parish Council constitution was passed out and the procedure of consensus decision making was discussed.

3. Meeting dates for next year

It was agreed that that having the meeting on a week night was a good change. Having the meetings on the third Tuesday of each month after the focus groups meet was agreed upon. Our first meeting will be on August 18, 2009 after the focus groups meet. There should also be a retreat date set for the Parish Council in late August or before the September focus night. The date for the retreat will be determined with input from the chair. The retreat will look at the preliminary results from the parish survey and set goals for the coming year.

4. Focus Group highlight

Nuts and Bolts - Sunday collection are \$25,000 below budgeted amount with May and June left. That will result in roughly \$25,000 to \$30,000 coming in below the budgeted amount for the fiscal year. On the other side the expenses are less than budgeted by about \$11,000. Littlemore has been vacated and all rooms have been leased for next

year. It will be ready for students starting June first. The finalized, approved budget for next year should be sent out to all parish council members. Tony will see to it.

Prayer and Spirituality – What kind of activities for new students that would familiarize them to Newman and bring permanent and student members together were discussed. Ideas included: combining the student and tri-parish bulletin somehow, so all activities for Newman are in one place, inviting permanent members to participate in some selected student activities, mentoring students, the prayer cards or just having someone a student could go to (concerns about training members as mentors was discussed). Discussion on the use of inclusive language, the Creed and having Christ at the center of Newman's Masses were discussed as well.

Community and Social – They wrapped up the year with discussion on how well coffee house, student meals and Masses were attended by students. At the last student meal they scheduled for 50 students and 65 showed up. The focus group is planning a summer social on Tuesday July 14th. It would start with everyone meeting at the Pizza Ranch around 5 pm. After eating and mingling those who wanted could go to the River Bats game afterwards. Sign up would be done after Masses and those wishing to attend the game would go to the park and purchase their tickets at the gate. Student meals will be led by Gary and Jo Hennen and Mick and Joan Abfalter again next year and coffee house will be coordinated by Simon Schoborg. Deb Duffy's status as co-coordinator with Simon is not known. Volunteers are difficult to find for coffee house so anyone interested would be more than welcome.

Peace and Social Justice – Ideas for speakers next year were discussed. Possible ideas included having Kathy Langer speak on the topic of immigration in September, and a talk on the well drilling in Tanzania was another possibility. The discussions led into topics which would interest students. What would peak their involvement? Possible ideas revolved around service, environmental, peace issues, racism or energy issues. Selling Chico bags was brought up as a student fundraising idea. Chico bags are reusable shopping bags, which fold up into a very small easy to carry size. We could put Newman information on them.

5. PC Chairs and Secretary, Focus Liaisons

Volunteering for next year as co-chairs were Mike Ernst and Matt Kehrer. Secretary duties will continue to be done by Wayne Braith. Liaisons representative to the Focus groups from the Parish council will be as follows: Community - Simon Schoborg, Peace and Social Justice - Alan Lawrence and Christy Trettel, Nuts and Bolts - Ken Bettin, Prayer and Spirituality – Wayne Braith. Student Liaisons from the Parish Council will be discussed next fall for those students missing from tonight's meeting.

6. Long Rang Planning

Mike Ernst will set up data entry procedures for this summer and run analysis on the numbers once data has been entered. There should be general ideas ready for the Parish Council retreat in the fall. The surveys should be numbered before data entry so if there is a question on information it can be traced back to which survey it came from.

Discussion on possible individuals to do data entry followed, with Dawn Schoborg being a strong possibility.

7. Other

-Advertising on the back of the bulletin was discussed. Question as to money being generated from it and if so what is it used for? Should the money from any profits go to outreach for the needy? Tony will check into the advertising and what if any profits are generated and where it is used.

-Tony is also trying to get a group together from the tri-parishes and others parishes in the St. Cloud area to discuss the issue of the needy coming to church's doorsteps for help. The idea of Newman using some of its monthly second collection for this purpose and how to distribute was a point of discussion as well.

-Cub receipts and other things for the St. Mary's/St. Augustine's school are being collected here at Newman, too, and there probably should be an announcement in the bulletin once and awhile.

-What are the benefits of the pop machine? Does it cost Newman to have it? What is the usage? Tony will check into the cost of benefit of it.

-Student Events: Men's Spirituality is for college students, but would it not be beneficial for permanent members to participate as well? Concerns of overpowering students' events with permanent members were discussed. There will be more interaction if the student to permanent member ratio is not allowed to exceed 2 to 1. To maintain balance permanent members could be invited on an individual basis. One example would be with the men's group this summer folding into fall with a few permanent members attending Men's Spirituality to create good connections. This idea could be carried forward into the student meals with a table host to sit and talk with students at the meals. This would result in about six to seven students to each host at a table. Activities should be selected in which permanent members are invited to student centered events. We need to keep the student activities student centered but have the resources of the permanent members available if some students wish it. It was agreed that the student prayer cards should continue as well since there were some positive feedback from permanent members. Plans for a simple carnival the first week of fall semester were discussed. It would involve having activities in the parking lot and the possibility of having a Tilt-A-Whirl as one of them. If possible, it would be a great way to introduce Newman to the present and new student population.

8. Adjourned 9:32 pm

Respectfully submitted by Wayne Braith