



# THE CHURCH OF ST. EDWARD PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

May 6, 2021

*Maureen Larson and Peter Smyth were absent from the meeting.*

## PARISH COUNCIL

Steve Madej  
*Chair*

Michele Cowling  
*Vice Chair*

*Social Justice & Charity*

John Cotter  
*Worship*

Angela Dunbar  
*Faith Formation*

Randy Jenniges  
*Member-At-Large*

Tom Kent  
*Administration*

Maureen Larson  
*Pastoral Care*

Patsy Murphy  
*Community Life*

Molly Mitch  
*Trustee*

Peter Smyth  
*Trustee*

Fr Rick Banker  
*Pastor*

Mike Petruconis  
*Parish Administrator*

## STAFF / GUESTS:

Donna Rubio  
*Staff*

Sally Mays  
*Minutes*

## **PARISH COACH:**

We welcomed Denise Ehlen as our assigned Parish Coach. She has worked with CLI for about 14 years. She is the youngest of ten children and is originally from Illinois but now resides in Wisconsin. She is married, no kids but has three cats and two Labrador Retrievers. She has 27 years of experience in the corporate world and hosted her own Catholic radio show. After spending 6 months in discernment, she found CLI. She loves Jesus and loves the Catholic Church. She has a lot of experience working with leadership skill with priests, initiatives, and walking with parishes.

## **Questions/discussions:**

### **How does the pandemic affect this process?**

CLI is doing most things virtually, however, Denise is open to in person meetings at this point and time. She feels the "vineyard is the vineyard" no matter if it is easy or more difficult. CDL continues to serve no matter the circumstances. As DMI survey, CDL finds that most results will be unchanged by the pandemic. If a parishioner is happy about their parish, they generally have remained happy if not even more pleased after pandemic and vice versa.

### **How will we handle focus groups and Synod small groups?**

**Synod Review:** Small groups will meet weekly from September to early November. Groups will contain a facilitator and a scribe along with eight to ten members. We are hoping to put together 15 small groups. After these sessions, some representatives will go on to Deanery process, and then on to the Synod which will take place during Pentecost next year. We are hoping to retain some of the small group members to participate in the focus groups for coaching process.

**Coaching Process:** Coaching will begin with a small envisioning group made up of six to eight people. This group will meet first during summer months. CLI will use data to begin conversations, create components, and set goals. Denise will help create spaces to help team hear God's voice on parish destination. Next steps would be meeting with Commissions and focus groups.

**Timeline:** Denise feels if we roll up sleeves, we could get the first envisioning process done before the start of Synod groups; though it is important not to rush things for the sake of a schedule. We could start in June with an in-person session, then have some virtual sessions, and meet again at the end of August to loosely put together a schedule. Altogether, there will be five sessions by the end of August. We will then pause for the Synod small group process. This could be a very good thing, as we can see what will come out of Synod discussions and apply to our vision. In January, we can meet for the sixth session to reflect on the work and Synod process and make any applicable changes. We can then begin focus group process.

**Vacation:** Father Rick will be on vacation the month of July. Denise agrees that the absence of Father Rick will be okay. She can continue to work with envisioning team during his absence and then in August she can go over the work with him.

**Thoughts from Denise:** It is important to have a loose or flexible schedule to provide room for the Holy Spirit to work and provide direction. She stated it is most important that the envisioning team takes time to plan/schedule prayer, literally. The more time in prayer, the easier it is to discern God's plan for St Edward's Church, not our own. It is also important to have clear outcomes, inform parishioners of what is in it for them, and how aligning with the greater church is beneficial to all.

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

**April Minutes:** Approved with no noted corrections.

## **OTHER BUSINESS, *continued***

**Recruitment of PC members:** Currently have two or three names with one being open to serving on either the Parish Council or Finance Council. Names were suggested. Current PC members will reach out and hope to offer an information night to possible candidates to have questions answered. High School representatives were also brought up in discussion. Parish used to have high school reps to share their thoughts and ideas with Council. All agreed this is a good idea and great experience for high schooler. No formal plan of action was set on this.

**May Leadership Night:** We will focus on reflection of past year of accomplishments despite the ongoing pandemic. Accomplishments from each commission can be emailed to Steve

**June PC:** PC will meet first Tuesday in June. We are going to meet in person, hopefully outside but if weather does not permit, will meet in social hall. The meeting will be pushed ahead to 6:30 to ensure daylight during outdoor meeting.

**Covid Guidelines:** Most governor restrictions are set to expire on May 28. Church limits can return to normal. Current mask mandate set to end by July 1 but possibly sooner. Addition to Sunday Mass times was discussed. A survey will be going out to parishioners to gauge preferred times.

A concern was raised on some parishioners' feelings on St Edward's Covid response especially pertaining to 65+ age group. It was pointed out that some had deep feelings about volunteer restrictions and encouragement to stay home and attend Mass virtually. A suggestion that the church should follow up on this in some fashion, stating reasoning, overview of current guideline, and acknowledging deep feelings, and encouraging them that they are indeed welcome and wanted. It was also voiced that the Parish could reach out via phone as well to this age bracket.