

Pax Christi Collaborative Finance Council

Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2024
6:00-7:20 p.m.

Facilitators: Fr. Philip Erickson, Business Manager Lisa Baxter
Council Members: Jeff Korfhage, Carol Holliger, Jerry Raque, Bob Schroeder, Rick Reinert, Monty Reeves, Paul Moon and Judie Greiner
Absent: Hank Weiter
Recording Secretary: Clare Vize

The meeting began with a reading from Sunday Mass by Father.

Father then spoke about canonical structures regarding Finance Council vs. Parish Council. He explained the following under canon law:

Can. 536 §1. If the diocesan bishop judges it opportune after he has heard the presbyteral council, a pastoral council is to be established in each parish, over which the pastor presides and in which the Christian faithful, together with those who share in pastoral care by virtue of their office in the parish, assist in fostering pastoral activity.

§2. A pastoral council possesses a consultative vote only and is governed by the norms established by the diocesan bishop.

Can. 537 In each parish there is to be a finance council which is governed, in addition to universal law, by norms issued by the diocesan bishop and in which the Christian faithful, selected according to these same norms, are to assist the pastor in the administration of the goods of the parish, without prejudice to the prescript of can. 532.

Thus, in our diocese, since the bishop has a pastoral council (PCAL), it is OK for our parishes to have both a Finance Council and a Parish Council. In layman's terms, Father explained, the Parish Council is like your therapist, while the Finance Council is like your accountant. (i.e., your therapist tells you that you need a vacation, and your accountant tells you based on your bank account, whether or not you go to Iroquois Park or Disney World).

We are currently catching up on financial reports. There have been a lot of distractions lately. Father would like to have regularly occurring FC meetings. Quarterly would be OK to meet with him, but they are welcome to meet monthly too. They could name a FC president and recording secretary to run these meetings and take notes, but unless something was parish specific, he felt that getting feedback from the entire Council would be prudent. He asked Clare if she could put an August or September date on the calendar. Lisa could attend quarterly if the need arises or adjust accordingly depending on needs. She could also email information to the Council so she would not need to be present. Father stated that if some members cannot be present, perhaps the Council could recommend a replacement member.

Lisa clarified that she still cannot close out the months – the software has issues on bank reconciliations. The reports that she sent out through March are unaudited. We are still ironing out issues in the system. The new software does not do fund accounting, so there is no way to pull out specific accounts (such as Boy Scouts or Altar Society) from the main account without resorting to an Excel spreadsheet.

Regarding the OMOS roof; the 1st choice is to go with American Roofing. We still have to send it to the Archbishop for approval. Finance Council then reviewed the documentation, heard the contractor choice presentation, and had time to raise questions, and the Council then recommended that Father proceed with writing to Archbishop for permission to use American Roofing as the contractor.

Lisa then updated Council on the recent OMOS banking compromise. It's possible that the AT&T data breach caused our account information to be made public. Several attempts were made across the country to access our funds and she was forced to put a hold on the account. PNC Bank has been a challenge to work with these past few weeks, so since we will be shutting down this account, we will also be looking at other banking institutions. US Bank and StockYards Bank are two nearby that we are considering. A discussion ensued that was in favor of StockYards Bank overall.

Budgets are still not ready. There is a 32% increase in our insurance coming. We have a \$10,000 deductible now according to Catholic Mutual. These items will need to be tweaked in the budget. Regarding payroll and raises: staff did not get a raise last year, but we are putting one in the budget for this fiscal year.

OMOS gaming/picnic equipment: should we sell it, rent it or loan it out? A question was raised if there were still items at St. Elizabeth too – yes. Jerry Raque offered to get an inventory done of everything so we could see what we have. Father said we could keep a few items for ourselves and sell the rest or scrap it if it is unsellable. Jerry knew of someone who might be interested.

Regarding iGive Catholic, a bit of information was given about the program. Jerry was interested in attending the meeting on July 23rd to see if he could run it. We will get him the RSVP information.

PONS project fundraiser: Monty Reeves gave a short background about the fundraiser. Father commented that he is anxious to foster community across all three parishes, and this is a wonderful way to bridge that gap and he appreciated Monty taking the initiative on this project. We can put together the information packet and also share it with parishes in the area for their bulletins too. Judie and Carol offered to help as well.

There being no further discussion, the meeting ended at 7:20 p.m.