

PASTORAL COUNCIL REPORT

THE FINAL YEAR OF OUR THREE YEAR TERM 2016-2017

The Parish Pastoral Council has a large role in the function, direction, and management of our Parish. Members are committed to strong leadership on your behalf.

TRANSITIONS

Deacon Ken Clemens served as our first Parish Life Coordinator. Deacon Ken, with the Council, explored what this new model of leadership would look like at Immaculate Conception. We learned our Parish was among the 1st in our region to implement this style of spiritual guidance and management. The Archdiocese clearly has confidence in IC to be able to navigate this change and become a model for others.

Deacon Ken was just our ground breaker. He served our Parish well and is responsible for the completion of many building improvements. Unfortunately, he needed to retire due to health concerns. Around this same time there were changes in our Deanery and we were assigned a new Pastor, Fr. Kenneth Brown.

The council then welcomed Deacon John Flanigan. To assist in his transition into his new role, the Council provided background and history about IC to our new Deacon. (As a council, our focus is to maintain consistent leadership within the Parish no matter who our Pastor, Deacon or Sacramental Minister.)

The strength of the council was again drawn upon as we learned our Sacramental Minister Fr. John Paul Hopping was being relocated. We are welcoming Fr. Peter Blake to this position now. Do you feel like you need to take a deep breath with all of us now? We are trusting that the Holy Spirit will guide this journey on our behalf. Each layer of change has brought new talents, new ideas, new energy, and many affirmations about the quality of people we are as a parish.

COMMISSIONS

While the council provides the vision and guidance for the parish, the commissions represent all the work done within the parish.

We have simplified and clarified the commissions and have leadership in place at each level. We recognize there are gaps in the communication between all of these groups. As we began our work to improve the messaging, it became clear that the Mission Statement we had did not send a clear message of action. It was a lovely statement about the parish, but we needed to focus the parish on an action plan that addressed the needs of our parish today.

MISSION STATEMENT

The council made a decision to review and revise the Parish Mission Statement using the Archdiocese guidelines. Each council member worked independently on the worksheets provided giving us time for prayer, research, and reflection. We then met in a workshop style meeting to share our knowledge. The process proved to be a wonderful experience for this council. It became a clear summary of our combined insights we acquired during our tenure on the pastoral council. We knew what we needed, and knew when our new Mission Statement represented the needs of Immaculate Conception. The parish agreed. We presented the draft to the larger parish community and received overwhelming positive feedback. This is the new Mission Statement that was adopted.

Immaculate Conception Mission Statement

Called to be disciples of Jesus Christ, we strive to live His Gospel by answering daily, "Yes, here I am Lord". Strengthened by the sacraments and trusting in God's saving grace, we joyfully commit ourselves to sharing our gifts for the continual renewal of our parish and the Maplewood community.

ENDING OUR TERM

As we approached the end of this council's term, there was discussion about the new Council format we had experienced. We explored the pros and cons and determined it was indeed a format we all felt very good about. Those of us who had served on previous councils felt like this time was different, we were able to have real input and make a difference in our parish. We then began the process of selecting a new council. We shared the tasks involved with the help of the Holy Spirit. Deacon John successfully drew names for our new Pastoral Parish Council on July 9, 2017.

Welcome! Laura Miller, Nikki and Todd Bircher, Mary Bankston, RJ and Suzee Irwin, Becky Konersmann, Tim Yohe.

As chair, I will remain with the new council until they choose a new chair among themselves. I hope to bring transition, history, guidance and encouragement.

Thank you for your trust in us.

Teresa Lunte (Chair), Ellen Simmons (Co-Chair), Marie Mudd (Secretary), Tom Hannan, Deborah Lee, Robert Bott