

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 13, 2023 7:03 p.m. CST

Meeting Location: KCWL, In-person meeting

Attending		Regrets
Pastoral Council Members		Members
Father Matthew, Pastor	Len Florizone	Heather Hickey, recording secretary
Bronwynn Cutts, Chair	Robin Sander, Vice-Chair	Jhoana Bernarte
Dean Schmidt	Don Griffith	Reylan Lozada
Val Stone	Chad Sawatsky	
Pastoral Council Resources and Guests		Resources
Matthew Loran		

1. Opening Prayer

Father Matthew led a reflection on the upcoming Sunday Gospel.

2. Refugee Sponsorship

The council welcomed Matthew Loran to the meeting, who had requested to bring forward to council a refugee sponsorship opportunity on behalf of his parents (Bob and Jeanine Loran) and family.

Explanations were provided on the opportunity as for a male individual who is currently a refugee in Turkey. Being of Kurdish heritage, the information on his situation included explanations of the Kurdish people, an Iranian ethnic group native to the mountainous regions of Western Asia. Their traditional homeland was politically divided after the first world war leaving the Kurds with minority status in all the new countries. Since that time, the Kurdish people have been persecuted, as all the new countries treat them as hostiles and subject them to abuse and torture, which has resulted in rebellions and genocides.

The Loran family are closely connected to the fiancé of the individual they are requesting refugee sponsorship for, and evidenced a sincere desire, willingness, and capability to take on all aspects of the refugee process to assist this individual in Turkey who is facing a dangerously escalating situation. The family has attempted all other possible routes for refugee sponsorship and explained none of these were applicable as the government of Turkey will not provide refugee documentation for this individual given they are of Kurdish heritage, as he is considered persona non grata and the government turns a blind eye in all aspects. Therefore the only opportunity left for the Loran family to support this individual is through the church, by requesting on of the refugee spots allotted to the diocese.

The council discussed the risks, liabilities and opportunities of the situation with Matthew. He also provided details that the individual, whom he has gotten to know through the fiancé, has no known

health conditions at this time; has some English language skills; and already has aspirations for employment if successful in coming to Canada.

On behalf of the Loran family, assurances were provided that they will handle all aspects of the refugee and relocation process, including all monetary and housing requirements, in alignment with the current processes in place with the parish and diocese.

Through the refugee discussions, Father Matthew provided updates on the current two refugee sponsorships that the council has supported in the past. In the first instance, of an individual male, the individual has not yet come over to Canada. In the second instance, the two females, they arrived in Canada a few months ago and the work of the refugee committee to support them in day to day assimilation needs has been taxing on the committee, as most committee members work during the day so the daytime needs are falling on just two individuals. The Loran family confirmed that this sponsorship opportunity would not require any of the usual supports from the refugee committee, as their family are well equipped and prepared to handle the day to day needs. With these assurances from the Loran family, it is clear that the St. Anne refugee committee resource team currently in place would not be impacted. The financial requirements for the refugee process is handled through our parish office, such as the maintenance of the banking account and issuance of cheques monthly, and Father confirmed adding this to the parish office team's work would be manageable.

Final review of the opportunity included confirmations that the refugee spots belong to the diocese, and that if St. Anne approves to support this individual, the parish owns the liability as being the 'backstop' should the Loran family situation change and they are no longer able to support this sponsorship. Included in the discussions was the benefits of supporting an individual in dire straits and providing them the opportunity for a safe resolution, which supports our parish values and the Loran family, who are members of our church community. Given that the Loran family has provided the information, assurances and commitment that they will support this sponsorship in all aspects, the council thanked Matthew for his time and he departed from the meeting.

The council discerned further on the request, and decided to put forth a recommendation to approve taking on the refugee sponsorship request put forward by the Loran family. The motion was brought forward by the Chair, and seconded by member Val Stone. The vote was conducted as all in favour, with one abstention.

St. Anne Parish Pastoral Council Motion(s) & Result April 13, 2023

All in favour / none opposed / one abstention

Carried

UPON MOTION duly moved, seconded and carried unanimously, it was RESOLVED that the St. Anne Pastoral Council accept to support the refugee sponsorship as put forward from the Loran family for one male adult, with the verbal commitment from the Loan family to cover all financial and other supports for the refugee sponsorship.

Actions resulting:

- Father Matthew will inform the Chair of the Refugee Committee of this new sponsorship
- Bronwynn will email Matthew Loran and confirm that the council and Father Matthew support the Loran family request and he may proceed with the refugee sponsorship process.

3. Agenda Review

Other Business agenda item additions:

- Dean requested to present a question on children's liturgy and the covenant of care responsibility

The motion to accept the agenda with the one addition was duly moved and seconded. The vote was concluded as all in favour with no abstentions or objections and carried as unanimous.

Action Items Review:

- The action item regarding music ministry was reviewed, with Don providing a review of the previous meeting's discussions and concerns raised, for those who were not present for those discussions. Father provided the music ministry guidelines to support these discussions. The item was concluded.
- Other action items were not completed as anticipated and will carry forward.

4. Approval of Minutes and Matters Arising from the Minutes

The council reviewed the draft March 2, 2023, Minutes. The Chair suggested a few changes; 1) to remove specifics of the financial information, 2) to remove Appendix A, being a draft document pending revision. With these revisions agreed upon, the motion to approve the minutes, as revised, was duly moved and seconded. The vote was concluded as all in favour with no abstentions or objections and carried as unanimous.

Action follow-up:

5. State of the Parish

Father handed out numbers in the mass attendance up to 2023 March for council review and discussion on the data. Father noted their remains parishioners returning after COVID.

6. Post- Easter Triduum Review

Discussions led by Father asked for feedback / comments on the activities and events of Easter Triduum this year. Council member expressed appreciation for the music for Good Friday and that that they have heard lots of positive feedback for all events and activities over Easter. The celebrations were beautiful. One note is to change the lectern on wheels for Palm Sunday.

7. Church Sanctuary Discernment

As noted with the agenda review, the March action items pertaining to the church sanctuary discernment were not completed as anticipated, therefore will be revised based on discussions at this meeting. For the process of discernment, using the same structure, the same subcommittee and any

others are to come together and plan this out further for council review at the May meeting. Dean will coordinate the meeting date/time. From the discussions, confirmation was provided that with the options to be presented, that doing nothing is an option. Father’s explanations included that for each option there are various parts and the questions would be move or leave it as is. Fr Matthew also confirmed that he did reach out to Sandra Richter as a member of that original build, and she suggested other points of contact as part of these discussions.

Father noted a book that staff are reading, “Pursuing Gods Will Together”, a next step of group conversations.

Actions Resulting from Discussions:

- Fr Matthew will update on potential sketches to be provided.
- Dean will coordinate the group on who will revise the discernment process plan.

8. Annual General Meeting (AGM) Planning

The Chair provided a hand-out on the AGM process for incorporated entities for educating council members on governance and potential processes that may apply to St. Anne. The AGM planning discussions included updates provided by Father Matthew, who read from a document received from the diocese regarding the AGM. The diocese is moving us in this direction of individual parish incorporation instead of the Bishop owning all, as is currently the case. The Board for the corporation will be comprised of membership outlined as: the Bishop; the vicar; the pastor; and two members nominated by the pastor and put forward for approval by the Bishop.

Father shared his thoughts that the two nominated members could be the chair of the finance council and the chair of the board, noting that the chair of the board does change annually which may not provide the consistency needed. The council discussed options for possible representation. The discussions resulted in a motion put forward to nominate Bronwynn Cutts from pastoral council and Bridget Koch from finance council as the two appointed members to the Board for St. Anne’s Parish, to be put forward to the Bishop for approval. Father Matthew supported and approved of the two names put forward. The motion was put on the table by Dean Schmidt, seconded by Len Florizone and voted on as all in favour, with one abstention, being Bronwynn Cutts.

St. Anne Parish Pastoral Council Motion(s) & Result April 13, 2023	
<i>All in favour / none opposed / one abstention</i>	<i>Carried</i>
UPON MOTION duly moved, seconded and carried unanimously, it was RESOLVED that the St. Anne Pastoral Council nominate Bridget Koch and Bronwynn Cutts to the St. Anne Parish Board, in alignment with the incoming parish incorporation process, pending furtherance from Father Matthew to the Bishop for approval.	

A review of the past AGM was noted, and that there were topics for round table discussions. For the May 2023 AGM, the topic was discussed as being related to the sanctuary space, with conversations on the process and options in an effort to be as transparent as possible in the whole process. Another topic discussed was 'life in the parish. At the May council meeting, members are to come prepared with idea to talk about with parishioners. Suggested was to add these to the agenda so that the parishioners are informed in advance to garner interest. Also noted was to allow for open table topics.

Father confirmed that has informed the Bishop of our AGM date. A response to this is pending, but we will go ahead with our planning, as it is unknown if the Bishop has plans on attending each parish AGM at this time. All were reminded to save the date of Sunday, May 28th.

Actions Resulting from Discussions:

- Father Matthew will inform Bridget Koch of the discussions/decisions.
- Father Matthew will post the AGM date in the bulletin.

9. Pastoral Council Term Review and Succession Planning

The Chair led the discussions on the pastoral council term review, noting completion of action items related to the renewal or continuance of terms. Confirmations included that:

- Val Stone, with a term ending after June 2023, and eligibility for renewal for a second term, has confirmed her decision not to continue on pastoral council.
- Reylan Lozada, with a term ending after June 2023, and eligibility for renewal for a second term, has confirmed his decision not to continue on pastoral council.
- Don Griffith, with a term ending after June 2023, and eligibility for renewal for a second term, has agreed to continue serving on pastoral council for a second term.
- Len Florizone, with a term ending after June 2023, and eligibility for renewal for a second term, has agreed to continue serving on pastoral council for a second term.
- Jhoana Bernarte, who has been unable to attend pastoral council since the fall 2022, has been unable to be successfully contacted, therefore will be considered as ending her time on pastoral council at June 2023, pending further contact and confirmation of availability.

Discussions confirmed the process forward regarding elections, as led by Don acting as the past-chair for running the next PPC council election. Father reiterated awareness of the council as reflecting the whole community that we serve. Fr Matthew requested everyone to come up with names of people to nominate for council. Feedback from discussions agreed that in light of the term renewal information presented, the council is lacks variety, being very white and male, and no longer maintains the Filipino representation previous evident. Further discussed was what the optimal number of council members would be, including review of the guidelines. Confirmations noted the age of requirement being 18 and that the election process would be seeking 4 new members. Date as decided by Father for opening nominations were confirmed as: Announcement and collection of nominators April 23 and 30th ; May 6-7 for the vote, with biography information included; nominations close: May 1, 2023.

Actions Resulting from Discussions:

- Don will work with Father Matthew on the election information for the bulletin.
- All pastoral council members are to come with names for consideration, having had conversations with potential candidates first.

10. Strategic Planning – Ongoing Vision Statement Activities - Tabled

- Continuing discussions on 'Every Catholic a Disciple Maker'

11. Other Business

- Dean posed questions on children's liturgy and covenant of care requirements. Some noted times when there were not two adults leading children's liturgy, which raises concerns for the safety and security of the families. Father will follow-up on this with the coordinator of children's liturgy.
- Bronwynn brought up one other comment, regarding Source and confession. At a recent Source voices were discernable from the pews when confession was being offered, Suggested was that portable screen could be used to alleviate the noise transfer. Feedback noted likely screens would not help, given the size and the space. Father noted he will guide those involved to lower voices, should this arise again.

12. Action Items Review & Next Meeting

- Next Meeting Thursday, May 4, 2023

13. Closing Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm (exactly)