

Cluster 22 Meeting Notes
October 20, 2005

Father Gendreau had sent us all an agenda via email prior to the meeting.

Father Morrison began the meeting by sharing two items with the group. First is a one sheet flyer that the bishop has asked parishes to include in the bulletin for the weekend of October 22/23—it explains the four administrative models and lists all the clusters. The other was information about an event for cluster participants being held in Winslow on November 5th. The information was passed around, and we passed around a sign up sheet to see who could attend from our cluster.

- Monsignor Henchel said he would rsvp for the group and he will let the diocese know the cluster's member names and addresses.

Eileen McDonald joined us as our cluster facilitator. We did introductions all around.

First item on the agenda was to elect a chairperson. Discussion on what the chairperson's role is—what the facilitator's role is. Chairperson sets the agenda for the meetings, makes arrangements for the meetings, brings in outside resources if we need them, and does “behind the scenes” work. The facilitator makes sure that everyone in the group has an opportunity to be heard and makes sure we are being effective.

Discussion on our options for leadership: Chair/Vice Chair model or Co Chair model.

- The group voted on Chair/Vice Chair model.
- Two people were nominated: Scott Ewing and Dick Sawyer.

Discussion on clarification of who is eligible to vote and how we vote. Consensus is that everyone votes and voting will be done by ballot. Scott excused himself from the candidate discussion and voting. Dick was absent.

- Voting results: Scott as Chairperson and Dick as Vice Chairperson

Scott took over running the meeting at this point.

Discussion on how we handle decision making from now on—do we need to have a quorum, and what will that be? Do we need to vote or get consensus? What is our responsibility to our parishes? Do we have equal representation?

We agreed on the following:

- We have equal representation with the addition of Laurie.
- A quorum is 12 or more in attendance, regardless of parish.
- We will use consensus to make decisions (the role of facilitator is to be sure that all opinions have been expressed), however, we will vote if we cannot get consensus, and the majority will carry the vote.
- Paid staff will refrain from voting if the matter we are voting on affects his/her job.

Scott asked to review the models. Discussion on our understanding of the models—apparently some of Ernie’s descriptions we not necessarily 100% accurate.

- Eileen will photo copy new detailed descriptions of the models and distribute to the group.
- Cluster members attending the meeting in Winslow on November 5th will also get more details/clarification on the model descriptions and report back to us.

Clarification that we don’t have to choose exactly one of the four models listed—we can aim towards one of those models, but based on the needs of the cluster, it may be slightly different.

Clarification on what kind of financial model a parish must have—every parish must have a finance council of at least two members to advise the pastor on extraordinary expenses. So, if we centralized, each parish could maintain a two-member finance council.

Clarification on centralization--that having one staff does not mean that the staff is interchangeable—a staffer could only work at one worship site.

Do we have enough information? Suggestion to get more financial details from all four parishes.

- Each pastor will bring the Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year that ended June 30th to next meeting.

More discussion on what makes a parish, “a definite community of the people of God.” Is our aim separate, diverse communities or homogeneous communities? How will we combine structural piece and cultural/evangelical piece?

- Kathy W. will photocopy handout on parish life for the group.
- Father Mike also has handout “defining parish” to hand out to the group.

Suggestion that we examine one model each month to see if we can make it fit.

Clarification on how we project out five to 10 years—will we allow for growth?

Consensus on fact that whatever we decide now is subject to change later on. It will be a “living” document.

Discussion on what is our vision of church—consensus that we will need lots of input on that.

Discussion regarding communication plan. We decided on the following:

- We have no choice but to include the bishop’s one sheet in this week’s bulletins.
- We will add our own “greeting” to the parishes thru next week’s bulletins—Donna will compose a short summary based on the one Michelle brought from Parish Cluster 23 and distribute to the parishes on Monday.
- Scott will be our webmaster and create a Cluster 22 page that we can all link to.
- Web page will include our meeting minutes.

- We established a Communication Committee—members are Sybil, Beth, Michelle, Sheila and Donna.
- The Committee will meet prior to the next Cluster meeting to review a communication plan and make a recommendation on next steps to the Cluster.

Discussion on agenda items for next meeting included a suggestion to review finances, and then move on to reviewing each model.

- Scott will meet with Eileen to discuss best way to proceed now and to create agenda for next meeting.

Suggestion to move things along faster: we use committees/subcommittees to work on specifics and implementation between meetings.

Next meeting: November 17th at St. Max's from 7 to 9.