ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
Finance Council Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2026

Members Present: Fr. Ryan Harpole, Bayne Million, Kathy Kemp, John Winstead, and Chris Vowels

Members Absent: Steve Thornton

Guests: Dcn. Larry Conrad and Sharon Luster

Call to Order
Father Ryan called the meeting to order at 5:59 p.m. with an opening prayer.

Review and Approval of Minutes
The first item on the agenda was a review of the May 26, 2026 meeting minutes as prepared by Chris Vowels. With no further discussion or corrections, Kathy Kemp made a motion to approve the minutes with a second from Bayne Million. The Council unanimously approved the May meeting minutes.

Review of Financial Statements
The Council next reviewed the June 2026 financial statements and notes prepared by Sharon Luster, Finance Director.

At the end of June, the Parish had $551k in its general funds, $188k in Renew funds, and $179k in the restricted endowment fund. Other notable items from the June financial statements included:

- Renew 2 Loan – Balance currently at $170k
- Investments Building – Includes $70k for the Marian Shrine project and $10.1k for Building 4 capitalized repairs
- Restoration Income – Includes a $100k estate bequest
- Special Collections Receipts – Includes special collections for St. Gianna House, St. Joseph Cemetery, and WKU Newman Center
- Investment Returns Gain/Loss - Includes quarterly entries for the endowment fund (10% gain)
- Miscellaneous Income – Knights of Columbus $1,500 reimbursement for Chesterton Academy start-up costs

Following a motion from Ms. Kemp and a second from Mr. John Winstead, the Council unanimously approved the June financial statements.

New Business

- Donations – The local Knights of Columbus council recently donated $50k to Chesterton Academy and $40k to the Parish for construction of a new maintenance building that will provide additional storage for the school and the Parish.

- Marian Shrine Update – The renovations to the Shrine are estimated to be completed in October. There have been several in-kind donations of labor towards this project.
- Preschool Building – The school needs a better and larger space. The current building is old and sorely in need of restoration. A fundraising committee is exploring a campaign to raise funds for a new building.
- Parish Council – The new slate of Council members (seven total), each serving three-year term, is set to hold its first meeting on August 4.
- Finance Council – All members agreed to serve for another term.
- Seminarian Living Arrangements – The Council discussed one of the seminarians living in the rectory until December when Fr. Corey Bruns arrives at the Newman Center. No action was taken by the Council as this is a decision ultimately for Fr. Ryan.

Old Business

- Employee Retention Credit (ERC) Update – The Diocese finalized the split of the ERC funds, which is to be shared 80% to the Diocese and 20% to the parishes/schools.
- Tom Lilly, Chancellor of the Diocese, and Ray Purk, CFO of the Diocese, both retired at the end of June.
- Chesterton Academy Update – All faculty (seven total including the headmaster) have been hired. The final student enrollment ended with nine students against a goal of ten for the first academic year. (Subsequent to this August 3 meeting, a tenth student did enroll thus the goal of ten students has been met.)

Next Meeting Date

The Finance Council set its next meeting for Monday, October 26, 2026, at 6:00 pm in the rectory.

Adjourn

With there being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m. with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Chris Vowels
Secretary