

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
Finance Council Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2025

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

Members Absent: None

Guests: None

Call to Order

Father Ryan called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. with an opening prayer.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The first item on the agenda was a review of the October 7, 2025 meeting minutes as prepared by Chris Vowels. With no further discussion or corrections, John Winstead made a motion to approve the minutes with a second from Steve Thornton. The Council unanimously approved the October meeting minutes.

Review of Financial Statements

The Council next reviewed the September 2025 financial statements and notes prepared by Sharon Luster, Finance Director.

At the end of September, the Parish had \$407k in its general funds, \$176k in Renew funds, and \$179k in the restricted endowment fund. Other notable items from the September financial statements included:

- Renew 2 Loan – Balance currently at \$750k
- Hispanic Ministry Income – Includes \$6k from the Charismatic group event
- Hispanic Ministry Expense – Includes \$2.3k in costs for the Charismatic retreat
- Investment Income / Gains – Quarterly entry made for \$8.4k of unrealized gains
- Interest Income – Includes quarterly interest from the Diocesan savings and loan account

Following a motion from Mr. Winstead and a second from Mr. Thornton, the Council unanimously approved the September financial statements.

DeVries Office Building Update

- The online auction begins November 17 for old, excess furniture, furnishings, and fixtures.
- Discussions are ongoing with the contractor on getting a demolition date for the building. A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow with the contractor.

Employment Retention Credit (ERC) Funds Update

- Ongoing dialogue with the Diocese to return the funds back to the Parish and the school.
- The Diocese will be meeting with the School Board on November 24 to discuss the issue.

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- Another meeting will be held on December 2 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church with the finance councils of the area parishes.

Chesterton Academy Update

- The headmaster has been determined.
- A fundraising dinner will be held on 04/18/2026, which also coincides with Fr. Ryan's 15th anniversary of his ordination.
- Fundraising/marketing efforts will be out in full force beginning in January, including social media, church visits, event visits, and outdoor billboards.
- Scholarship funds have been received from donors.

Other Business

- The Reverse Raffle and chili cook-off fundraiser was held on October 25. Once again, it was a success both socially and financially with 131 tickets sold. The net proceeds will be split between Renew and the youth group.
- The Council decided that future meetings would be held in the rectory.
- The Christmas party for the Parish staff and councils will be held on Saturday, December 27.

Next Meeting Date

The Finance Council set its next meeting for Monday, January 19, 2026, at 6:00 pm in the rectory.

Adjourn

With there being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m. with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Chris Vowels
Secretary