

# ST EUGENE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

2025-2026  
Asheville, NC



**LOCATION:** Parish Hall

**DATE:** March 10, 2026

**TIME:** 6:00pm

## MEETING MINUTES

### Participants (P – Present; NP- Not Present)

Rev. Sabastian (P)	Rev. Dr. Mike Zboyovski (P)	Rev. Dr. John Langlois (P)	Joe Stritch (Chair, 6/26) (NP)	Abel Lomeli-Garcia (Vice Chair, 6/26) (NP)
Laurie Zone-Smith, PhD (Secretary, 6/26) (P)	Betty Lynne Lear (6/28) (P)	Nathan Lawrence (6/28) (P)	Dr. Ellen Lawson (6/28) (P)	Vanessa Garcia Hernandez (6/28) (P)
Michael MacCauley (6/26) (P)	Ginny Raviotta (6/27) (P)	Noe Valdez (6/27) (P)	Dr. Daniel Frayne (6/27) (P)	Terry Ryan (6/27) (P)

Guests:

**I. Call to Order** – Deacon Jon 6:04 pm

**II. Opening Prayer** – Father Sabastian

**III. Welcome & Introductions** –

- The parish council offered healing prayers for Joe Stritch.
- Consensus of monthly meeting time to be determined, considering space dependencies and scheduling availability.

**IV. Approval of Minutes (1.21.25)** – Terry Ryan approved, and Dr. Lawson seconded the approval with an amendment to add the attendee list.

**V. Commission Reports**

- **Buildings & Facilities** – Nathan Lawrence
  - Submitted report.
  - Hail Guards- 2 of 4 completed, wrong size was sent for the third, right ones this week.
  - Broken Kneeler- Work in progress, will be repaired before weekend Masses
  - Adoration Chapel- Major Roadblock, the architect pointed out egress problems

- **Education & Formation** – Abel Lomeli-Garcia
  - Report Submitted.
    - **Summer Camps**
    - Camp Hidden Lake (Middle School)
      - June 22nd – 27th
      - 24 Spots Available. 20 Teens and 4 Chaperones
      - Signups are open. Paper applications are done first.
    - Camp Covecrest (High School)
      - July 27th – August 1st
      - 40 Spots Available. 35 Teens and 5 Chaperones
      - Signups are open. Paper applications are done first.
    - Pricing (Refresher for Council)
      - \$665 per camper & chaperone. St. Eugene to only charge \$350
      - 2 Buses being rented (1 for each trip)
      - Remaining costs to be covered by fundraising
    - Fundraising
      - Valentine’s Day Flower Bouquet Sale (Canceled)
        - Winter storms closed St. Eugene a few weeks, so fundraising wasn’t possible
      - Coffee & Donuts this past week for all masses
        - Successful event! \$2,000 earned and will fund buses for trips
      - Family Soccer Night
        - Date TBA, but we’ll have food and a fun soccer day for families
    - Sign Ups
      - Paper sign-up done first and turned in with a \$100 non-refundable deposit.
      - Once the paper sign-up is submitted, Amy sends the online application to complete the final sign-up
      - 6 students officially applied, with more coming in the following weeks.
- **Evangelization & Communications** – Vanessa Garcia Hernandez, Betty Lynne Leary
  - Betty spoke with Abel and Amy about promoting summer camp to parish families, suggesting one or two kids who have attended in the past give a short summary at the weekend masses and encourage others to sign up. Also discussed social media posts as move closer if spaces remain available.
  - Betty started a list of activities to provide at next council report.

- **Liturgy & Worship** – Rev. Dr. Michael Zboyovski

**Highlighted areas are time sensitive and/or require adaptation for future events**

- The Liturgy Commission held their quarterly meeting on 3/2/2026. It was initially scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup>. It was postponed due to Fr. Sabastian's travel schedule and the necessity to have him present at the gathering. The following is a brief presentation of the topics discussed:
- Fr. Sabastian asked that future meetings be transferred to an evening setting rather than mornings. Our previous schedule called for meetings on May 11<sup>th</sup>, August 10<sup>th</sup>, and November 9<sup>th</sup>, at 10am in the office conference room. We will retain those dates and check with the master calendar to see what part of the campus is available for our meeting space. This arrangement will benefit our Hispanic members who are working during the day. Proposed meeting time is 6pm.
- Recap of Liturgical Events of previous quarter
  - Thanksgiving Day Mass. It was well attended and the sharing of bread continues to be very appreciated. It was noted that for next year—additional loaves of bread be supplied by the parish for those who were not aware of brings a loaf to share. Amount to be estimated prior to next years event.
  - Guadalupe celebration was well attended. Parking continues to be a problem when large numbers are attending a service. (Guadalupe, Christmas, Easter, Rite of Election, Ash Wednesday evening, etc.) We will need parking attendants to assist with overflow.
    - Parking in the circle drop-off (NO PARKING) area continues to be problematic. EMS and/or fire trucks would not be to address emergencies.
    - Key for the ACS parking area needs to be available
  - It was noted that communication regarding Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>) being a Holy Day of Obligation was not communicated well resulting in reduced attendance.
  - Ash Wednesday evening service was attended by nearly 1000 people. More stations for reception of ashes will be needed in the future.
- Upcoming Liturgical Services
  - Our parish-wide communal Penance service is scheduled for 3/16/2026 to begin at 5:30. Fr. Sabastian has had 2 additional priests respond to the invitation to be part of the service. More are expected to contact him directly.
    - Fr. Sabastian will provide the service format, including hymns and readings. He will get the information to Allyson (music director) asap.
    - This item needs to be added to the weekly bulletin, website, and Mass announcements asap. This was an additional example of our need to communicate important dates/times regarding future planned events to allow for sufficient time to communicate the information multiple times to our parishioners prior to the event.
  - We discussed upcoming Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Triduum, Easter vigil Mass, and Easter Sunday Masses
    - Deacon John and Deacon Mike will meet with Fr. Sabastian to review unique service needs, as well as, service times, and Mass time changes unique to these special services. Those changes will be made public immediately after confirmation by Fr. Sabastian.

- **Outreach (Ecumenism)** – Ginny Raviotta
  - Report submitted.
  - Request from Kathleen Kasben re Washer/Dryer to be used with linen laundering following funeral receptions as well as other events using tablecloths.
  - Ginny will connect with Kathleen to discuss” need. Also need data regarding what ministries would use Washer/Dryer, and the number of loads each month.
  
- **Parish Life** – Dr. Ellen Lawson
  - Report Submitted
  - Request presented from Walking with Mom’s in Need ministry from Mary Head. Walking With Moms in Need, a St. Eugene ministry has been working with Transformation Village, a transitional housing and support program for homeless women, mothers with children, and female veterans, operated by the [Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry \(ABCCM\)](#). It provides a multi-phased approach to help residents achieve self-sufficiency through services like emergency shelter, meals, case management, life skills training, and educational and professional certifications to lead to stable housing and employment. We have held two baby showers there for expectant moms to providing items such as strollers, car seats, clothing and other items. We prepare and serve lunch on the 3rd Thursday of each month to residents. The cost is about \$200 per month made through donations made by ministry members, parishioners and area Catholics. We would like to ask that the parish consider a donation of \$600 towards the purchase of future lunches.
  - Laurie Zone- Smith made a motion to support this request; Michael McCauley seconded and consensus support by the parish council. The request will be taken by Father Sabastian to propose to the finance committee to allocate discretionary funds for this request.
  
- **ACS** – Michael McCauley
  - Michael participated in a small group vision statement committee. There was a meeting held however no final proposed statement from the group was determined. Michael presented a vision statement suggestion for the council to consider. 3 versions were presented for discussion and proposed council member review and discussion at next meeting.

## VII. Open Issues

- **Mission Statement Update** – Dr. Ellen Lawson, Dr. Dan Frayne, Michael MacCauley
  - Review the vision statement proposed by Michael McCauley at 3.10.26 meeting.
- **Finance Committee Update** –
  - 6 month report to Parish Council

## VIII. New Business –

- 2026 Parish Council Nominations
  - Joe, Abel, Laurie, and Michael will complete their parish council terms in June 2026.
  - Deacon Jon will discuss with Abel. Abel (post meeting) offered to meet with Rick Lober to obtain the forms and methods used to invite nominations for parish council replacements for the next term (6/2026 – 6/2028)
  - Begin nomination process after Easter.
  
- Suggestion Box -Laurie Zone-Smith
  - Anonymous - “Please return the large paintings of the stations of the cross at least for Lent!” The paintings are no longer available to the parish, they have been returned to the artist who donated them.
  - Kathleen Kasben (Choir, women’s guild, funeral ministry) “In your future planning, please consider putting a stackable washer & dryer in the space where the women’s restroom is near the kitchen.” Ginny Raviotta will connect with Kathleen not discuss. Parish interested in collecting data for utilization needs.
  - Denise Cox – ‘ I have been a member of St. Eugene for many years and as I am trying to blend in with the Hispanic community. I have been to other churches in Charlotte and they have video and texts displaying all the Gospel and the readings. I believe this would help both communities learn English and myself to understand the Gospel etc. Many people have said it is easier to learn vs trying to follow reading on another page.” Terry Ryan will review. The missalettes have English and Spanish versions in the pews.
  - Anonymous – “Could we stop people from putting stickers, flowers etc. on the columbarium – flowers look horrible after a short time and the columbarium was never intended to have anything on it.” Father Sabastian will review.
  - On-Line Form Submission: “ Hello, I attended reconciliation on Saturday, February 28, and while waiting in line, I could hear the confessions of the people in front of me, which made me very uncomfortable. I sat at the other end of the pew, next to the room ( about 5 feet from the door), so it was definitely some sound leakage. I don’t know if this is the right place to share this information, Thank you. Suggestion “Maybe soundproofing or checking the acoustics of the reconciliation room or playing soft music in the background (instrumental or chants) to mask the voices, I apologize if this is too much. Thank you.” Deacon Mike to address.
  
- Father Sabastian Agenda items:
  - Finance Committee – Parish Council focuses on spiritual and the Finance Committee focuses on material. Parish council makes a recommendation to the Finance Committee. Parish Council member can attend Finance committee. Suggestion made to read the Diocesan Pastoral Council Manual for direction and roles & responsibilities. Last report from Finance committee to Parish council was in July. Finance committee should report every 6 months to Parish council. Father Sabastian will review.

- Father Sabastian would like to convene a meeting with the neighborhood residents for discussion of their experience living around the church. He drafted a letter to invite the neighbors to a meeting on Sunday evening March 22 dinner at 6pm for discussion. Father Sabastian invited the parish council members to participate.
- Missionists of St. Paul Congregation:
  - Father Sabastian is a member of MSP. He is hosting the annual meeting for 10 priests 3/23-3/25. There will be a mass on Tuesday at 8am. Father requested support from the Parish council to host the meeting at St./ Eugene providing hotel accommodations, meals and space for the meeting. He is requesting donations or taking up a second collection from the church to support the visit.

- Next Council meeting: TBD; Abel or Joe will notify the council of next meeting.

**IX. Closing Prayer** – Deacon Mike

**X. Adjournment** – Joe Stritch at 8:14 pm