Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2026

Opening Prayer

Silent Roll Call
Parish Council: **Stacie Enneking, Beth Mescher, Derek Spieles, Jeff Stammen, Fr. Ken Schnipke, Emilie Winner, Joel Wuebker, Linda Winner**
Absent: **Steve Gruber, John Stechschulte, Amy Bergman**
Standing Commissions: **Jana Ranly, Kay Schmiesing**
Absent: **Major Bernhold, Greg Knapke, Jacque Borchers**
Visitors: **None**

Approval of Minutes
The PPC council members motioned electronically to accept the March 2026 PPC meeting minutes.

Standing Commission Reports

Building & Maintenance – Greg Knapke
- **New ADA ramp and concrete north of the church**
  - **System complete and operational. Waiting on covers on PVC. Rich/Greg to follow up with Tom & Jerrys concerning Intake/Exhaust Covers**
  - **South side ramp can be removed in the Spring. Project schedule may move based on steeple and window creation repairs. Rich/Greg working on a schedule with Weigandt to start ASAP.**
- **Front entry restoration**
  - **Getting budget quotes on design - Meyers Restoration working on an Engineering quote.**
  - **Step caulking is complete.**
- **Steeple Repair**
  - **Renaissance presented their quote Thursday May 7th - asked for a breakdown.**
  - **Durable Slate presented a quote that was reasonable – they are a reputable company.**
  - **Imbus will also present a quote in the coming weeks.**
- **Security at Church**
  - **Strikes and plungers are complete and doors close a little quicker.**
  - **Looking to add security cameras to parking lot.**
- **Window Creations**
  - **Frames built over the winter. Install expected in mid-summer.**
- **Parish Center**
  - **Need quote for new concrete steps and railing repair for North Entrance. Woehrmyer provided a quote, approval in process. Greg temporarily secured railing.**

○ Wellman to inspect and secure fire escape railings. Meyer restoration also quoting.
○ Waiting on quotes to prep and paint fire escapes.
○ Cotterman inspected roof, cemetery also needs work, waiting on quote.
· Church
○ Plaster work loose in South West corner. Rich/Greg to investigate further.
○ Parking lot needs sealed and restriped. Verified parking spots to be 9ft.

Education Commission - Jana Ranly
This is Jana's last parish council meeting – Troy Bornhorst will be her replacement.

<u>Religious Education</u>
· The 2026-27 Religious Education Year will start on August 26th.
· As of now, we are in need of approximately 15 Catechists for grades K-12 for 26-27.
○ Jeanette and Will are planning a "Religious Education Open House" on June 14th after the 9 and 11 mass. They will each be introducing themselves and expressing the need for Catechists. The open house will be a come and see event complete with:
-Coffee & Doughnuts
-Catechist Testimonies
-Opportunities for parents to see what their child will be learning
-Registration Encouragement (14% of expected students are registered so far for the 2026-27 year)
-Opportunity for potential catechists, students, and parents to the staff.
· Will is looking into implementing a "Discipleship Class" into the religious education program for grades 6-12 for the 2026-27 year. This class will be taking what students have learned in their other classes so far and giving them real practicals, challenges and support for living out their Faith.
· Jeanette will be starting her role on June 8th.
<u>Youth Ministry</u>
· Will and a core team of young adults from the parish are launching a High School Youth Ministry Program called "Jesus Nights"
○ Jesus Nights will occur once a month on a Sunday evening and be focused on bringing kids into community, formation and encounter with Jesus. Complete with food, games, talks and worship and adoration.

Cemetery Board - Jacque Borchers
· The board met on April 28
· The board viewed the office renovations in the maintenance building.

- **Mike shared pictures of the ongoing drainage issues at the northeast corner of the cemetery near First Street.**
- **The next continuous run was poured in the new section of the cemetery, and Mike plans to dig the next row soon.**
- **Mike also sprayed the old section of the cemetery for weeds, up to the chapel.**

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Tracy reported that a 4th proof was sent to Globus for the 2024 cemetery directory. This should be the final proof before printing. We will have a digital copy available, per the parish council and archdiocese request.**
- **Heath gave an update on the sale of unused/abandoned lots. He spoke with Tom Jordan from Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Cincinnati. Tom gave Heath a copy of their extensive rules and regulations that includes a section on how cemeteries can reclaim unused burial rights. Their policy states if a lot has been inactive for >75 years, and the appropriate channels are taken to contact the heir, the cemetery can reclaim the lot and either resell it or reallocate it however the cemetery deems fit. The board concluded that it makes sense for us to adapt some of this terminology for our own rules and regulations.**
- **Jenni shared no additional work has been done yet on the draft charter for a new beautification committee.**
- **The board talked some more about the tree trimming in the cemetery. Keith will reach out to get some quotes to get started on this and hope to get 5-10 trees done for the summer. Keith also suggested purchasing an extended gas or electric chainsaw to be able to tackle some of the work ourselves, especially on the lower, easy to reach branches.**

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Jacque forwarded a quote from Huelsman Brothers for ~$12,000 to add cement curbing in several sections of the cemetery, including around the maintenance building, columbarium landscaping and Angel of Hope. The plastic edging does not hold up well at the cemetery and doesn't look nice. The board did a visual inspection and walked around the cemetery to see what would be included. Tracy took some pictures, and we thought it would be good to reach out to the Angel of Hope donors to see if this is something they could help with. This might also be a great first project for some initial donors of the larger cemetery beautification project.**
- **The board continued their tour by looking at some of the tree damage from the recent windstorms, the areas that Mike has been working on for weeds/edging and looked at some of the historical headstones and brainstormed what could be done to help them both structurally and aesthetically. This can be worked into the larger beautification project long term, but we want to start on this section faster. Keith will work with Jenni to get something drafted for a future bulletin to ask for volunteers to help with this project.**

- **Mike shared that an adjustor came out from the archdiocese to look at the maintenance building roof damage and take some pictures for a possible insurance claim.**
- **Jenni shared that Jacque's last meeting will be in July.**

Mission Commission - Kay Schmiesing

- **April 6th meeting – 24 members attended. The speaker from CareCore had to cancel.**
- **May 11th – many members attended. The above speaker could not make it again so Chris Niekamp spoke briefly on the PX games. They are having a sunrise mass this year and will be serving breakfast to all the attendees. Mission Commission members approved a donation to help cover the cost of the meal. We also make cookies for the event.**
- **Approved to purchase t-shirts for the children attending Vacation Bible School.**
- **Members are volunteering to pass out baptismal baskets made up by the Mission Commission. 26 baskets were given out as of April. It was in the mid thirties at the May meeting.**
- **Garage sale is scheduled for July. There was a drop off after the Community garage sale at Halls of Hanover. Discussion in the May meeting felt the extra drop offs were just way too much. Next year we may just have drop offs be the day before and the day of the garage sale only.... this is what other church/community garage sales do. They do not store anything during the year. Increase in advertising would be needed to remind people to hold on to their things until then. They also found a charity out of Cincinnati that will come and take all things that are bagged after the garage sale is over. We would have them come after our local charities gone through and take what they need.**
- **Soup and Bread Luncheon went well in March. 77 people attended. Dave Meyer of Operation BBQ was the speaker. Donation given.**
- **Easter Flower delivery went well. 37 vases were delivered and 25 cards were sent to nursing home residents. The flowers were from Wagner's and were beautiful.**
- **Member Pam Schmitmeyer reported that 1,928 pounds of food was delivered to Agape from the food bins at the back of the church.**
- **Next meeting is June 1st at 6:30 pm**

Finance Commission - Major Bernhold

1. **The parish is on budget for the year with a little over $1.1 million on the balance sheet.**
   - **This does not include the $900,000 pledged/raised for the Steeples.**
2. **We continue to look at new ways to get people involved in giving- time, talent, and treasure. One idea raised was a QR code for the younger generation to be able to donate.**
3. **We are current on all Building & Maintenance payments- the next big project is the stain glass storm windows on the church for approximately $165,000 over the summer.**

PPC Committees

Parish Ministry Committee - Jeff Stammen

- **Met prior to the PPC meeting.**
- **Ministry Fair is planned for Aug. 29-30, 2026.**

EAP/ASP Committee - Steve Gruber/John Stechschulte

- **No update**

Elections Committee - Amy Bergman/Beth Mescher

- **Welcome Linda Winner as the newest member, replacing Jeff Stammen.**

Unified Pastoral Council Update - Stacie Enneking/ Emilie Winner/ Amy Bergman

- **Meeting on April 9**
- **Nick Wilker provided attendance data – there has been a steady increase in mass attendance.**
- **The Archdiocese had a 4% increase in attendance.**
- **Generally, church giving is not keeping pace with inflation. This is also true for Christ Our Light. Discussing ways to see an increase.**
- **Staffing continues to be a challenge, but also finding good hires.**
- **Dynamic Deacon Harold will be speaking for our parish mission on the evenings of Nov 29, Nov 30 & Dec. 1.**
- **The Annual Retreat is scheduled for July 21.**

Old Business

Steeple Project Update - John Stechschulte

- **Waiting for quotes from 4 companies.**

New Business

- **The Stewardship Committee will be having a Stewardship Sunday on November 7, 2026. A QR code will be provided to direct parishioners to the stewardship offerings in the family of parishes.**
- **Church Inventory Directory – St. Johns had a directory of everything that was in the church. St. Augustine has an old version however will need updated. We plan to make an announcement during mass to see if there are any photographers that would like to take on this project. Insurance will need to pictures if there is an insurance claim.**

Comments from Father Ken

- **The Archdiocese came to the May St. Augustine deanery meeting to discuss the Family Unity Discussion (FUD).**

- **There are 5 stages of Beacons of Light. Most parishes will not be complete all 5 stages by 2027. FUD will move this process along.**
- **Part of FUD includes the archdiocese doing financial and a buildings and grounds assessments of over 200 churches and all the other facilities in the Archdiocese looking at how we are doing to maintain the churches and plan for the future.**
- **FIRST ONSITE is assisting with building and grounds assessments in Christ Our Light.**
- **The Family Unity discussion will begin in January 2027 with a kick off for all of the unified pastoral councils of the St. Augustine deanery. The family leadership team will review information from that gathering and discern to address in Christ Our Light. There will be a large gathering open to all Christ Our Light parishioners and a final gathering for all of the unified pastoral councils of the St. Augustine deanery. Imbedded in the process will be a discussion about canonical unification. Christ Our Light will follow the process designed by the Archdiocese and collaboratively discern the best path forward for Christ Our Light.**

Future Meeting Dates (All at 7:00pm): 8/18/26, 10/20/26, 1/19/27, 3/16/27, 5/18/27

Closing Prayer

Executive Session – Parish Council Officer Elections
All council members present at the meeting voted unanimously to the following:
Chairperson – Steve Gruber
Vice-Chairperson – Stacie Enneking
Secretary – Beth Mescher