

**Our Lady of Lourdes Parish
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting**



June 21, 2023

Zoom and In-Person

6:00 – 7:28 p.m.

Pastoral Council in Attendance: Deb Steppe, Mary Alston, Paula Dahlman, Jackie Dombrowski, Anita Eikens, Dave Hansen, Denise Haussy, Pat McKay, Tom McKean, Rebecca Porter, Wrenly Porter, Judeen Schulte, Nancy Short, Lorie Skeff, Donna Van Wynsberghe

Prayer: Nancy Short offered a prayer of thanks for summer and its many delights.

Short- and Long-term goals, 2022-2023

Support the interaction of OLOL parishioners, committees, groups and staff.

1. *Continue working with committees and staff for emphasizing cross information and sharing between and among committees. Leads: All, especially Liaisons to the committees.*
2. *Re-establish the Energizer Committee to facilitate collaboration among all ministries/groups. Lead: Judeen Schulte*

Lead and participate in carrying out Christ's mission as Church

1. *Support new families/members through a mentoring program. Leads: Paula Dahlman, Denise Haussy*

Be aware and present to the emerging needs and opportunities within OLOL

1. *Present and put forth a volunteer board Leads: Rebecca and Wrenly Porter*
2. *Ensure sustainability during the transition of new leadership Leads: All*

Updates and Current Topics

1. We welcomed Deb Steppe. She said she is honored to serve and has been reflecting on her vision for the parish. She said she believes that we are on a very good course: we pray well together and work well together, yet we need to learn to play well together again following COVID. Determining how best to do so will be part of her immediate goals.
2. Deb's official transition celebration will be the weekend of August 26th and 27th.
3. Donna Van Wynsberghe announced that Jenny Keats was leaving the Pastoral Council. She has taken a new position that requires she work later on Wednesday evenings and would not be able to attend meetings. Donna and the Committee offered thanks for Jenny and her many contributions from the first moments she joined Council. Jenny would be welcome to return should life events permit.
4. Donna and the Council thanked Judeen for her leadership of the Council since 2015.
5. Judeen Schulte reported Lorie Skeff, Denise Haussy and Mary Alston have agreed to join her on the Committee for "New Members for the 2023-2024 Pastoral Council." An initial communication with previous materials used was distributed and the plan is to meet in early July to confirm approaches. All Council members are encouraged to ask persons to consider membership. We would love to have new members representing young families and other diverse elements of our OLOL community.
6. Judeen announced that new individual pictures for the website and a group picture of the Pastoral Council will be taken at the September meeting. Paul Kuenzi will take the group picture.
7. Pat McKay gave an update on the Unsung Disciples submission that will appear in future bulletins. Plans are becoming more formalized. Group members discussed possible topics and who would write each 125-word insert. Jenny Keats' description of the feature will be the July 2023 *Spotlight*. Pat McKay will write the first Disciples' submission on the Hunger Task Force Farm participation.

Follow up on Goals for 2022-2023

1. Support the interaction of OLOL parishioners, committees, groups and staff.

- a. Committee reports that show engagement with various groups are shown below.
- b. Judeen Schulte reported she talked with Maggie Russell about re-envisioning the Energizer Committee whose focus was to facilitate collaboration among all ministries/groups. They will meet in late summer or early fall to take next steps in planning.

2. Lead and participate in carrying out Christ's mission as Church

- a. Donna said a Ministry Fair will be held August 27th, the same weekend as Deb's installation.
- b. Paula Dahlman discussed some ideas being considered to welcome and support new members.

- 1) Paula said the parish welcomed 14 new parishioners and held 15 baptisms with 2 still scheduled. The Committee is considering sending a welcoming card to those baptized.
- 2) Paula is checking with Mary Mueller to see if support is needed for the Welcome Weekend. Also, whether some usual processes could be systematized and documented, e.g., directions for making coffee, usual clean up duties. She will check with Marc Puechner about posting the Welcome Weekend notice one week before the event, hoping to increase participation.
- 3) Paula is continuing to connect with Jim Wielgosz regarding the work of the Welcoming Committee and with Marc Puechner about posting pictures of new parishioners on the web.

3. **Be aware and present to the emerging needs and opportunities within OLOL**

1. Judeen said Marlys Johnson (parishioner and Computer Science instructor), Rebecca, Wrenly, and Emerson Porter and she discussed having a volunteer board on the website and at OLOL. The group agreed an online presence would pose too many cybersecurity risks. The Porter family is concretizing an actual board to report continuing and one-and-done opportunities. Rebecca said they are collaborating with Maryrose Wolf to determine placement and if it could be movable.
2. The transition weekend festivities celebrating Nancie Chmielewski's retirement and welcoming Deb Steppe as Pastoral Director were great! The Transition Team (Maryrose Wolfe, Jackie Dombrowski, Jerry Beine and Rob Petri created loving and lovely experiences. During the liturgies, Nancie received the parish's scrapbook and a community blessing. Following each liturgy, a reception was held in which Nancie greeted participants who then partook of many delicious treats. Many volunteers provided decorations, refreshments, set up, replenishing, and clean up services. The Finance and Pastoral Council's gift of art to Nancie was presented after the 8:00 liturgy. Paula Dahlman coordinated the presentation with many Finance and Pastoral Council members present. She wrapped the gift in a floral pillowcase and scarf – both reusable or repurpose-able. Nancie "loved the gift." Jerry took pictures; a flashdrive with them will be created. Donna thanked everyone for their generosity and hard work. She noted the Pastoral Council will send a written thank you to the Transition Team. Judeen volunteered to send the card. The Transition Team is now working to coordinate Deb's installation ceremony and celebration.

Committee Reports

- **Community Engagement:** Paula Dahlman, Lorie Skeff: Group will be helping plan August 27th event.
- **Unsung Disciples:** Donna Van Wynsberghe: *Human Concerns* will hold a children's sock and underwear collection this summer. The *Octoberfest Committee* is moving forward nicely.
- **Discipleship Institute:** Lorie Skeff: Jim Wielgosz has taken on leadership of DI. The group will take a field trip to the Cantic Garden (<https://www.canticlegarden.com/>) to see how this new resource to "work together to care for our common home" is progressing. In fall, *The Chosen* TV series (<https://www.angel.com/watch/the-chosen>) will be shown weekly with discussion following.
- **Social Justice:** Pat McKay: Pat thanked Tom McKean and others for signing up to serve at the All Saints Meal program on June 20th. There are still open dates – sign up info available at <https://allsaintsmke.org/volunteer-opportunities/>. There will be a Black Lives Matter witness at OLOL on 9/16. Activities will be planned for National Migration and Refugee Week, 9/18-24/2023.
- **Liturgy Committee:** Nancy Short: A new Liturgy Director is being recruited.
- **Formation:** Jackie Dombrowski said Maggie Russell has names of youth who might be interested in joining the Council.
- **Marketing/Communications:** Anita Eikens reported many new tech resources have been installed.

Summary of the Meeting: As we shared delicious cookies, we welcomed Deb, thanked Judeen, were grateful to all who made Nancie's transition such a blessing, discussed the Volunteer Board, followed up on All Saints' activities, and discussed implementing the *Unsung Disciples* bulletin insert.

Respectfully submitted: Judeen Schulte