

**ST. MATTHEW PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 17, 2007**

**Council Members Present:** Karen James, Micki Klappa-Sullivan, Matt Knorr, Mike Kuick, Michael Hofmann, Tom Marciniak, Blanche McQuitty, Clifford Shelton, Fr. Bill Stanfield, Fr. Steve Stradinger, Phill Unti, Maria Schulner, Sharon Tehan, Judy Wargin.

**Formation:** In discussing the need to be ready with a report to give to the Archdiocese about what our parish needs are, the council brainstormed answers to the following questions:

- 1) What kind of parish are we?
  - We are a parish with a school – while a school brings life to the parish, it also puts a burden on the parish's resources.
  - We have a strong religious education program.
  - We have a pastoral associate.
  - We are conscious of social justice within the school and the parish.
  - We need to continue to grow as a parish.
  - Our demographics are mixed (many senior citizens and many families).
  - We have an active environment.
  - We have our Phase II capital campaign underway.
  - We are a working/middle-class/suburban community.
  - We are a prayerful parish.
  - There is a lot of untapped potential amongst our parishioners.
  - Parishioners are proud of our accomplishments.
  - We have a good/cohesive staff that work well together.
  - We are collaborative with the parishes in our cluster.
  - We can be reluctant to change.
  
- 2) What qualities do we need/want in a pastor?
  - Must be prayerful.
  - Must be welcoming.
  - Must have a willingness to collaborate.
  - Have strong leadership skills.
  - Encourages lay participation.
  - Flexible/adaptable/approachable.
  - Has a sense of humor.
  - Someone who is active/visible in the community.
  - A good communicator.
  - Possesses a healthy way of relieving stress (e.g. hobbies, has a balance in his life).
  - A homilist who is bible-based and can apply teachings to every day life.
  - A priest who has a connection to the church at-large in the Archdiocese.
  - A priest who supports the school.
  - Can relate to people of all ages.
  - Will strongly support religious formation for children/teens.
  - Someone who is bold – not afraid to challenge the status quo.
  
- 3) What does the parish need to be?
  - Needs a realistic vision of itself.
  - Need to have humility.
  - Must be open to change.
  - Must be evangelistic/externally focused.
  - A teaching environment.
  - Continue outreach efforts.
  - Willing to work with new pastor – be patient and give them a chance.
  - Keep lines of communication open.

**Chairperson's Report:**

- Winterfest is February 19<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6 p.m. Council members to contact T. Schneider if able to volunteer their time at the event.

**Pastor's Report:**

- Merry Christmas to all!

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

- The November meeting minutes were approved with the following change noted: Sharon Tehan's name was removed from the Prayer and Worship Liaison Report. Maria Schulner was the sole liaison that submitted and presented the report.

**Approval of Strategic Vision:**

- The revised strategic vision document was reviewed. A Motion was Made, Seconded and Carried to approve the parish strategic vision. This document will be shared with the parish staff. Parish committees will be asked to review their 2008 objectives to ensure they are in line with the strategic vision.

**Open to All Discussion:**

- K. James asked for volunteers to speak at mass about being on the Parish Council the weekend of January 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>. P. Unti volunteered to speak on Sunday. K. James volunteered to speak on Saturday. Nomination weekend is scheduled for January 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>.
- The theme for the council's auction basket needs to be submitted by January 26<sup>th</sup> in order to be included in the printed catalog. K. James is coordinating this effort.
- M. Hofmann gave an update about a discussion that took place at the Personnel Committee. He indicated that the principal and a representative from the Board of Education attended to talk about their plans for marketing the school. They intend to use a plan that was developed in collaboration with representatives from UW-Parkside.
- The Parish Involvement Day traditionally held in March each year is being changed to a parish Town Hall meeting and will include updates from each parish committee. It will be held on Saturday, March 8, 2008. The council will discuss plans for this day at the next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Blanche McQuitty  
Parish Council Secretary