

Cluster 23 Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2005
Hosted by Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Attendance:

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|--|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fr. Joseph Manship | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fr. Lawrence Conley | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fr. Norm Carpentier | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fr. Joseph Daniels |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sharon Williams | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pat McHatton | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elaine Rioux | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Hart |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donna Libby | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dick Peterson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lynn Shorty | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anna Cutter |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bernie Filieo | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Bois | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Martha Corkery | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ernie Lebel |
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Meeting began with a prayer service led by Fr. Conley, then turned over to Ernie Lebel, Director of Parish Planning and facilitator for the evening. Group introductions were completed.

1-1 Meeting Format **Ernie Lebel**

Group was asked to express their opinions regarding future meeting formats. Group consensus was that we would desire the following:

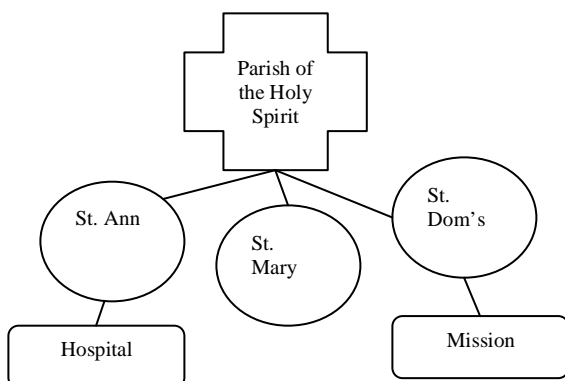
- A meeting facilitator at all sessions; this person should have an understanding and commitment to the Catholic Community, as well as experience in facilitating large groups facing difficult challenges. Ernie has a person whom he will approach regarding availability for this project.
- A chairperson responsible for preparing agendas and ensuring progress on agreed upon action items. Group also spoke briefly on how these agreements would be reached, with a suggestion made to use the “red, yellow, green” approach (with yellow suggesting that a member can live with the decision, and red defined as an absolute no). Bernie Filieo agreed to take on this responsibility.
- A scribe would be needed to produce meeting minutes and facilitate the communications with the various parishes. The group felt that a key element in this process is consistent communication both verbally and in written form to the members within this cluster. Lynn Shorty agreed to take on this responsibility.
- Communication within the group is essential – group is encouraged to remain open to other’s ideas and comments and to avoid dismissing or negating each other (Ya, but...)

1-2 Presentation on Proposed Models **Ernie Lebel**

Group requested more information regarding the proposals put forth in order to have a better understanding of the work ahead. Ernie provided a review of the four models; Fr. Conley provided a document from the diocese that had further information about the Bishop’s proposal and detailed descriptions of the models. This document, as well as other information, can be found at www.portlanddiocese.net/parish_reorg.html. All models propose that each cluster will have one Pastor overseeing all worship sites, along with a vicar(s) to assist with ministering to all the members.

- Model One:

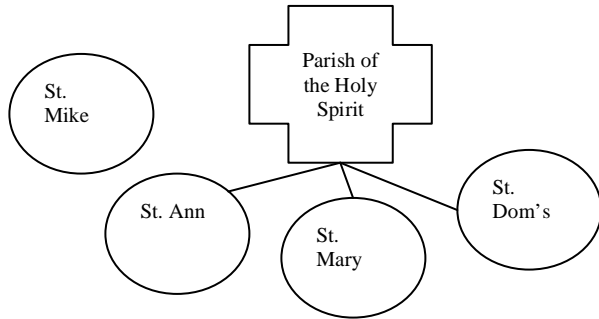
Merged Parish and Centralized Team and Councils



- One Pastor/One Staff
- One Administrative Center
- One Council made up of representatives from each worship site
- One Parish Finance Council
- May or may not have a priest in residence
- Each church considered a worship site for the cluster, with pastor and vicar(s) participating in masses at all sites

• Model Two:

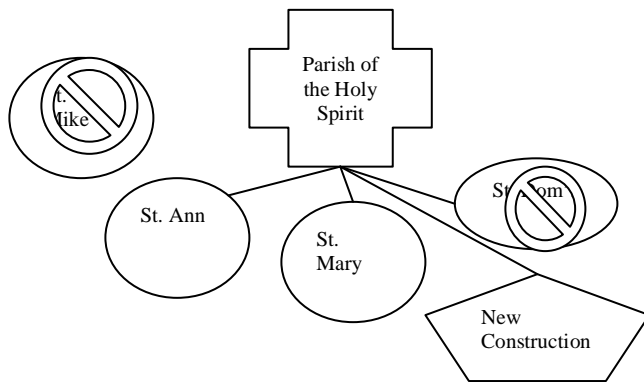
Separate Parishes with Centralized Team & Councils



- One Pastor/One Staff
- One Administrative Center centrally located to service all parishes
- Individual parishes may have pastoral &/or support staff
- One Cluster Finance Council – ie. “St. Mike” maintains its own books, separate from the rest of the cluster, but all managed by one pastor and one accountant
- One Cluster Parish Council
- May or may not have a priest in residence

• Model Three:

Build and Close Model



- One Pastor/One Staff
- Existing churches are closed/sold to provide funding for building a new church
- Councils, Committees, Finances are merged together to create one parish
- Core staff centrally located in admin center serving all worship sites
- One Parish Pastoral Council
- One Parish Finance Council

• Model Four:

Combination of all Models w/Centralized Team

Too complicated to draw! This model is assumed to be the appropriate model for the Portland community clustering efforts.

1-3 Future Direction

Bernie Filieo and Ernie Lebel

The group must now begin its work in identifying which model will best suit the many needs of the communities within this cluster. Suggestions were made as to how this decision can be reached:

- Would like to meet with the various pastoral councils at each parish to get a complete financial reporting
- Need to assess the strengths and weaknesses of each site
- Would like rotate cluster meetings at each parish in order to assess facilities, resources, etc.
- Decision was reached to meet again within the month to discuss the anticipated agenda for meeting with the various councils across this cluster group. Bernie will lead these efforts at our next meeting.
- Group also requires clarification regarding the current clustering efforts in Westbrook and the possible impact on how decisions may be reached for our larger cluster. Ernie will seek additional information from the Bishop’s office and provide clarification to the group.

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JUNE 28TH AT 6:30PM
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP**

Thanks to Fr. Norm for providing refreshments and a comfortable atmosphere in which to meet.