**Newman Hall – Holy Spirit Parish Council Minutes *DRAFT***

July 14, 2020, 7:30 – 9:00 pm

**Attendees** (virtually):Amanda Wehrman (Chair), Bob Gannon; Frank Rockwood; Ivan CSP Tou; Jimmy O'Dea; Linda Safarik-Tong; Ned Niccolls; Walt Lindquist; Youali Ramirez; Lina Gannon; Steven Bell; Steve Bossi; also former PC members Ellen Baker; Mary Luersen

*Secretary:* Ned Niccolls

(Welcome Sam Cabrera as a new Newman Parish council member!)

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| 7:30 - 7:35 | **Opening Prayer:** Jimmy O’Dea |
| 7:35 – 7:40 | **Adopt Minutes from June**  Adopted with revisions per Bob Gannon comments. |
| 7:40 – 8:10 | **Black Lives Matter:** Fr Steven   * Updates on actions taken to date (Critical Conversations, homilies, signs, website statement)   + Critical Conversations had a good response, with attendance ranging from a low of about 30 to over 60 people depending upon the week. More students coming on. Christine agreed to help get the word out about Critical Conversations. Now going into part two of the two-part radical empathy sessions. We just finished Part 1: Listening. There has been interest from other parishes as people saw the reference to Critical Conversations on the post-homily carousel. Critical Conversations has gained traction outside Newman probably also because the Paulists now stream our services on their site, along with people who know our Newman fathers from previous interactions, plus several Newman alumni “join” the Newman services remotely. Newman is not trying to expand its reach, at least not currently. Mary noted she had been spreading the word. * Supporting St. Columba; Women in Conversation Proposal; BLM Issues Broadly   + Ellen and Mary related discussions regarding St. Columba’s current struggles and initiatives. They provided viewpoints and information: this is a greatly shortened summary of the discussion.   + Mary and Ellen provided context of activities at St. Columba including voter registration, community support, BLM masks that can be purchased, and a communication to the Diocese drafted by a sub-group of St. Columba. She believes the Newman statement on the web site is powerful.   + This topic sparked many related discussions such as Lina pointing out that only about 2% of UCB students are black, she had heard in part due to UCB not being a welcoming environment for blacks (Fr Steven: yes, and the issue is complex including minimum requirements and that some blacks feel that going to an institution such as UCB may be perceived as selling-out).   + Amanda pointed out that we are having this conversation at a lot of levels. And there is action happening, compared to four months ago. We are progressing; probably not on the fast timeline we would all like, but we are deliberate about it.   + Fr Steven is directly involved in these issues. He noted that when we have acerbic events, we are filled with energy…(but), there must be recognition that the depth of our passion does not match the width of our perspective. We must be careful not to be myopic. There are two sides of the story. Also beware inflation. Beware the “you must change” approach; that is, we want to change them, as opposed to changing us.   + Ellen thanked the Parish Council for listening and taking to heart the issues. She will report back to Women In Conversation that (in a few words): yes, your voices were heard, trust the process, and consider actions with discernment.   + Ellen asked, where is Newman re: assistance to the cause. The Critical Conversations is a great effort.   + Fr Steven: we are now seeking systemic change. What is going to really help change starts with the small changes. The problem is to first clean up our house. And be clear as to what is the wrong that we are trying to right.   + Fr I: thanks to Ellen and Mary for bringing this up. As Americans, we want to “solve it now”. But what does the Holy Spirit call us to do? Often, we are called to reach out and accomplish the small items more than grand efforts. Reach out with kindness and love, even if it is rejected.   ***Due to the length of the discussion above, Fr Ivan quickly summarized other high-level items:***  Covid 19 Protocols—please look over them, is there anything we missed?  The Presbyterial council adopted the plan formulated by the Diocesan Planning Council. More to come. There will be a three hour zoom with all the pastors, after which the information can go public. (Amanda: as it shifts into the public phase, we will have opportunities to restructure our efforts).  Fr Ivan reported that Amanda agreed to his request to continue for another year especially because of Covid and BLM issues.   |  |  | | --- | --- | | 9:00 | **Closing Prayer** (Ned) |   **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020, 7:30 – 9:00 pm—see items carried over below |
| 8:10 –8:20 | **Season of Creation (Sept. 1 – Oct. 4)**   * Fr. Steven to present idea |
| 8:20 – 8:40 | **Church Response to COVID-19**   * Review of reopening approach * Feedback on livestreamed Masses * Brainstorm: ways to keep the community engaged |
| 8:40 – 8:55 | **Pastor’s Updates**   * Update on Parish Council leadership, membership * Preview of campus ministry plans (will review proposal next month) * Brief update on Presbyteral Council (will discuss in detail next month) * Other updates from Pastor’s Notes |
| 8:55 – 9:00 | **Future Agenda Items**   * Update on outreach calls * Campus ministry plans for the fall * Brainstorm of Parish values to inform next steps re: Presbyteral Council |

Purpose of Parish Council (*adapted from Feb. 2020 meeting discussion*)

* **The Parish Council is an advisory body.** Our primary purpose is to support and advise our Pastor.We are the collective voice of the Parish community, sharing feedback from the community and providing advice on pressing issues of the day.
* **The Parish Council is a strategic body.** Our job is to look at the big picture and evaluatewhether we are on track as a Parish. Are there ministry needs not being met?
* **The Parish Council is an active body.** As appropriate, we can volunteer to take on tasks that need support beyond staff capacity. However, Parish Council meetings are not designed as working meetings; rather, to ensure sufficient time to carry out our advisory and strategic roles, action steps should be assigned and acted upon outside of Parish Council meetings.

Ground Rules

* **State views and ask genuine questions.** This enables the team to shift from monologues and arguments to a conversation in which members can understand everyone’s point of view and be curious about the differences in their views.
* **Share all relevant information.** This enables the team to develop a comprehensive, common set of information with which to solve problems and make decisions.
* **Use specific examples and agree on what important words mean.** This ensures that all team members are using the same words to mean the same thing.
* **Explain reasoning and intent.** This enables members to understand how others reached their conclusions and see where team members’ reasoning differs.
* **Focus on interests, not positions.** By moving from arguing about solutions to identifying needs that must be met in order to solve a problem, you reduce unproductive conflict and increase your ability to develop solutions that the full team is committed to.
* **Test assumptions and inferences.** This ensures that the team is making decisions with valid information rather than with members’ private stories about what other team members believe and what their motives are.
* **Jointly design next steps.** This ensures that everyone is committed to moving forward together as a team.
* **Discuss undiscussable issues.** This ensures that the team addresses the important but undiscussed issues that are hindering its results and that can only be resolved in a team meeting.