

**Minutes of the 498th Meeting  
Saint Stephen Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council  
Conference Room at the Parish Office**

**September 8, 2022**

**Members Present:** Fr. John Thomas, David Hemingway, John Wright, Lauren Calhoun, Brenda Clark, Mark Heinz, Samantha Taylor Kaai, Kelsey Rhodes, Russell Vaughn

**Members Absent:** LaWanna Brand

**Parish Team:** Donna Murphy

**I. Welcome and Call to Order**

David Hemingway, chair, opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

**II. Prayer**

Fr. John Thomas led the PPC in prayer.

**III. Pastor's Report**

Fr. John Thomas reported our newly hired Business Manager resigned in August. On September 7, 2022, Andrew Nunez started in the position. Eddy McFarland will transition to part-time and will remain as special project manager until the completion of the following projects: repair of the font, relocation of bridal room, plumbing in the basement, rose window leak, and installation of the sound system. We do not have a director of children's ministry. Fr. John Thomas, Crissy Stevenson, and Karina Romero are working on Faith Formation for Children. Catechists are in place and Samantha Kaai has agreed to help with First Sacraments. Alex Reid has been hired as Director of Ministries and Volunteers and is becoming familiar with parishioners. Fr. Titus is departing September 11, 2022. There is no news as to when an associate pastor is coming. Seminarian Jayke White has been assigned to our parish. He will be coming on Wednesday afternoons and will help with RCIA on Wednesday evenings. Deacons Chris Knight and Pascal Paulter, OSB have also been assigned to our parish.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes were approved as written for the June 9, 2022, meeting.

**V. Liaison Reports – David Hemingway**

**A. Parish Finance Committee – Mark Heinz**

Mark Heinz reported that thru the first nine weeks of the fiscal year, actual collections of \$171,079 are \$28,199 less than the budgeted amount of \$199,278. Parishioners have contributed \$8,315 fiscal year - to-date for the Cathedral Food Pantry. During that same time the parish has spent \$15,832 to supply the food pantry. The parish recently received a \$3,000 Disciples Response Fund grant for the food pantry. To date the parish has contributed \$15,616 to Eastern KY Flood Relief. Fr. Riney somewhat committed SSC to contribute \$3,000 annually to Habitat for Humanity. This year the parish did send \$3,000 to Habitat while about \$2,700 was received in donations. Replacement speakers for the church have been ordered. There will be two tower speakers and will cost approximately \$30,000. The installation and technician fees will add to the cost. The existing Bridal Suite will be moved to the storage room on the south side. The current Bridal Suite will be configured to add 3-4 additional stalls. Campus signage has been installed. Planning for the repairs to the Baptismal Font is underway with Hartz Contracting helping with this project. There is not yet a schedule or cost estimate. We have been in contact with a contractor to make repairs to the roof and leaks around several windows in the Cathedral. The contractor is being delayed while trying to rent a crane. Options are being explored on making the office building more accessible.

**B. Liturgy and Worship – Lauren Calhoun**

Lauren Calhoun stated the speaker system update has already been covered in the Finance report. James Wells has been preparing for the upcoming change in the Liturgical Season

**C. Social Concerns and Outreach – Samantha Taylor -Kaai**

Samantha Taylor Kaai announced the committee met on August 18, 2022. Samantha reported the RCIA group has chosen the October Coat Drive as a project. A leader is needed for the Birthright

Baby Bottle Drive in January. A Summer weekday Feeding program for children was implemented at the Community Center. As many as 100 children were fed with this program. The Community Garden went well this summer. The Soup Kitchen at Pitino Shelter and St. Benedict's Shelter need more volunteers. The Crossroads Women's Shelter has asked for assistance in Companion Sitting monthly from 7:00 pm-6:00 am. The next meeting is November 17.

**D. Education and Formation/Spiritual Enrichment – LaWanna Brand (Margie Ebelhar on her behalf)**

Margie Ebelhar reported three candidates are on the RCIA Journey of Faith. Thirty- nine people signed up for the Biblical Walk through the Mass. That Man is You begins a new Fall season Sept. 10, 2022.

**E. Youth – Kelsey Rhodes**

Kelsey Rhodes reported that Karina Romero is amid small group sign ups and needs group mentors. There will be a family dinner on September 25, 2022, for the families to meet the small group mentors. The first Confirmation meeting will be September 21, 2022, in the Community Center. Karina Romero will be the point person for Faith Formation until the position is filled. The 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders will be in the traditional classroom model that meets on Sunday mornings, and the middle school aged kids will be in small group ministry. Young adult small groups are up and running.

**F. Buildings and Grounds – Russell Vaughn**

Russell Vaughn stated all in his report has been covered by other committees.

**G. Community and Family Enrichment – Brenda Clark**

Brenda Clark reported they served 75 people at the Ice Cream Social in June. We are celebrating the Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church the weekend of September 11-12, 2022. Alex Reid is coordinating and Brenda has lined up volunteers. They are serving pizza after 4:30 and 11:00 Mass, and sausage biscuits after 8:30 Mass. On September 18, is a 5:00 pm Holy Hour followed by pizza in the Community Center. On November 2, there will be a reception after the All Souls Day services.

**H. Long Range Planning – John Wright**

John Wright reported the committee met and decided to focus on two items. The first is to address the plumbing issues in the church. The second item is to investigate the potential of moving Cathedral Preschool.

**VI. Unfinished Business**

Fr. John presented the PPC meeting schedule for the following year: October 13, 2022, November 10, 2022,

Dec 8, 2022, Christmas Gathering to be determined, February 9, 2023, March 9, 2023, April 13, 2023, May 11, 2023, June 8, 2023, August 10, 2023, September 14, 2023, and October 12, 2023. David Hemingway and Mark Heinz are rotating off the PPC. By next Thursday please send Fr. John Thomas names to replace David and Mark. PPC members with 1 year left are Brenda Clark, Samantha Taylor Kaai, and Kelsey Rhodes. Those with 2 years left are LaWanna Brand, Lauren Calhoun, Russell Vaughn, and John Wright.

**VII. Birthdays, Anniversaries, Ordinations, etc.**

Ben and Kelsey Rhodes, and Jeff and Margie Ebelhar were wished a Happy July Anniversary. Richard and Donna Murphy, and Duncan and Samantha Taylor Kaai were wished a Happy August Anniversary. Mark Heinz was wished a Happy September 21 Birthday. Deacon Richard Murphy was wished a Happy September Ordination Anniversary.

**VIII. Closing Prayer – Fr. John Thomas**

Fr. John Thomas led the PPC in a closing prayer.

**IX. Adjourn**

The next meeting is October 13, 2022. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Ebelhar