

**Pax Christi Pastoral Council**  
**March 20, 2007 Minutes**

**Present:** Father Joe, Miguel Paz, Nancy Gaudet, Tom Mulvey, Mark Slattery, Pete Streit, Father Caesar, Teresa Silker

Childrens' Advisory Committee: Greg and Paula Sherman, Jim Fritch, Jennie Vinski, Patrick Jirik and Diane Solheid-Miller

Pax Staff: Amy Moore, Angie Slattery

**Opening Prayer** was led by Nancy.

**Minutes** of the February meeting were approved.

Old Business – Amy met with Karen, Carol Rizzo, Fr. Joe and Fr. Caesar about Karen's position. They proposed a 20-hour a week new position to help with youth faith formation. See attachment 1.

They proposed having Sunday school at the 9am mass for 3,4 & 5 year olds. There will also be a supplement to GIFT for 1-5 graders. They discussed our current youth programs and those are outlined in attachment A.

Pete asked a question regarding ages of the programs and Amy stated they are very age specific and that 1<sup>st</sup> communion has a book and reconciliation has meetings, retreats and a book.

The Childrens' Advisory Committee: Greg and Paula Sherman, Jim Fritch, Jennie Vinski, Patrick Jirik and Diane Solheid-Miller, met with the council to discuss youth faith formation issues/concerns.

See attachment 2.

Patrick explained the first page of attachment 2. Greg and Paula Sherman went over the second page of attachment 2. Some of the comments made by Greg was they were looking at grades 1-5 now and trying to get something that met weekly. Also the time frame, getting started soon so it could be implemented by the fall was discussed.

Teresa asked what's the difference between Good Sheperd program and faith formation and a discussion ensued regarding that topic.

Patrick explained page 3 of attachment 2. A discussion continued about providing sufficient resources for the teachers.

The next discussion focused on Teresa's concern of people not going to GIFT because of all these programs. The youth board wanted the new programs to integrate with GIFT so people would attend both.

A discussion regarding the new position, potential program and need for the program continued. Some of the points presented by the Youth Board were community building would stem from this "faith formation". Conversation parents have at home with their children is important and would come from this. A blending of "faith formation" and GIFT is what they envision. 3 weeks of "faith formation" 1 week of GIFT. Good relationships form among the youth by meeting once a week.

Angie Slattery, see attachment 3, spoke on the guidelines the Diocese provides for faith formation of youth. She also mentioned that youth group meets year round.

More discussion followed regarding the need for a trained coordinator and a seamless faith formation process up until graduation.

Fr. Joe mentioned the work Miguel and others did about calling the 180 people not reached through GIFT and catholic schools. Various answers were given as to why the families did not attend GIFT.

Pete asked if there was a model program. Diane mentioned her sister's parish in the cities is reaching many kids. That led into classroom size and education for the volunteers/teachers discussion.

Caesar addressed concern that this was discussed a year ago and nothing has been done.

A new discussion of Karen's position and what grade she will work with started.

The Youth Board exited and the council stayed with Amy and Angie to continue discussion.

Discussion of the new position entailed the new hire being able to write lesson plans, be full time and helping work with Karen. It was decided that the position should be a full time position with a bachelor's degree in elementary education.

This led to talking whether we should hire the person first or get the programs solidified first. It was agreed that we should hire first so the new person could help form the programs.

Placement and type of ad was discussed, and then meeting adjourned.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, April 17th, 7:00, at the round table.

Thank you notes will be sent by Miguel to Diane Solhied-Miller and Sara Zuroski.

Closing prayer was led by Nancy Gaudet.

Respectfully submitted by Mark Slattery