

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 7:00 – 8:30 PM Conference Room

Present: Laura De Boisblanc, Antonio Del Rosario, Fr. Hilbert, Letty Moss-Salentijn, Sarah Tintle, Fr. Yesalonia.

On the Phone: Marguerite Lucarelli.

Absent: Jim Braniff, Paul Capetillo, John Mancuso.

Special Guest: Ben Denihan, Parish Trustee and Chair of the Parish Finance Council.

1. **Prayer.** Father Yesalonia opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. **Report.** Mr. Ben Denihan reported on the work of the Parish Finance Council. He highlighted the “ups and downs” of the past three years of the pandemic, and described the prudent administration of the parish’s finances. He revealed some of the complexity of the finances in a large and active urban parish with a school, an historical landmarked church, multiple ministries, outreach programs, an extensive music program, and educational/cultural offerings. Mr. Denihan acknowledged and praised the expertise of Treasurer Fernando Castro, and the capable ongoing attention of the pastor. He assured the Council that the parish finances are in good hands. There followed questions about online donations and future trends. The Council thanked Mr. Denihan for his generous service to the parish.
3. **Review of Minutes, 11 January 2023.** The members received the minutes from the January 11 Parish Council meeting and the Pastor asked that any comments be sent to him. The minutes were accepted as presented.
4. **Report:** Pastor. Fr. Yesalonia gave an update of the work of the four implementation committees in the parish planning process. The four committee heads meet regularly with the pastor, and the committees themselves meet on a schedule that they determine. The work of the committee will be completed after Easter, and the final decisions will be made over the summer and published in September.
5. **Status Report: Parish Planning. See n. 4 above.**

6. **Discussion: Forgiveness.** The parish Lenten theme of forgiveness was discussed. A comment was offered about the example of Pope Francis, that simply asking for forgiveness is not enough for a Christian: there must be truth and action, and we must begin by recognizing the need for forgiveness in ourselves. In the parish context, forgiveness will include areas such as social and racial disparity, sexual and emotional abuse, loneliness due to the isolation during Covid. The synodal practice of listening to one another is essential, as well as the goal of reconciliation and peace. There is no peace without healing, and there is no healing without forgiveness. The members shared their thoughts in a lively discussion.
7. **Discussion: “Just Church.”** There was a brief discussion of “Just Church” by Phyllis Zagano. With an eye to the intersection of synodality and women’s concerns, Ms. Zagano argues for an increased presence of women in the apostolic, liturgical, and governance sectors of the Church, and in this vein the ordination of women to the diaconate. The prominent role of women in the parish community is a priority and over the past few years we have celebrated this in many ways. It was suggested that Lent would be an opportune time to organize roundtable discussions on forgiveness and the role of women. The idea received widespread attention and support. The Pastor will follow up.

Father Yesalonia concluded the meeting with prayer.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

The next meeting is Wednesday, 8 March 2023, in the Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted.

Michael Hilbert, S.J.