

Crucifixion Parish Council Constitution Task Force
Minutes, June 25, 2020

Dr. Ed Rydell, Chairperson of the Crucifixion Parish Council, invoked the guidance of the Holy Spirit with an opening prayer as he called to order a first meeting of a Parish Council Constitution Task Force on June 25, 2020. To allow members of to become acquainted, the meeting was in the Fitzgerald Center. Fr. Evans requested the task force to review the present constitution and devise any needed revisions. 4 additional parishioners responded to Father Evans' invitation to participate. Present were Tom Kelly, Charlet Sperbeck, and Jim Piggush. Tom Paulson was unable to attend and was excused.

Dr. Rydell described the present Council Constitution for Crucifixion Parish, and then the current composition and practice of the Council. The thirteen page Constitution, declared "Final and Approved" as of April 15, 1985, was last amended in May, 2009. The first two pages provide a preamble, statement of purpose and function, and a statement of authority taken from provisions of the Second Vatican Council, and the last eight pages consist of bylaws and guidelines, some date back to 1973, for 5 standing committees. Among them is a Finance Committee, which currently functions separately from the Parish Council, with three members. The Constitution provides for the following voting members: the Pastor and the two parish trustees, and, until 2009, 7 elected members; then, in 2010, 8; and in 2011, 9, a progression designed to provide for staggered, three-year terms, with elections of three members in April of each year. An elected member could have only one successive term. Representatives of the School board and the CCCW could serve non-successive terms as a non-voting members.

Currently, there are not 9, but only two Council members, other than the Pastor and the trustees, who may vote as ex officio members. Dr. Rydell and Mr. Bob Pitel were appointed in 2017 to two-year terms, but are now continuing to serve after 3 years. When they were first appointed, there were 6 such appointees. Three later resigned, and another, a parish employee, left his position. None were replaced. The non-voting positions for the school board and the CCCW are not now filled.

Liturgy, Building and Grounds, Social, and Welfare Committees, and an Election Board, all provided for in the by-laws, do not currently operate.

The council meets every 2 months, not every month, as called for by the Constitution.

While current practice is not in accord with the Constitution, neither the Constitution nor that practice entirely conforms to details of Diocesan Statutes concerning Parish Governance. The Statutes for Parish Pastoral Councils in the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, were first adopted in 1991 and last amended in March, 2018. According to those provisions, the Pastor is the Presider of the Council, and does not vote. They specify that the Council is a collaborative body with a consultative vote. It has a minimum of 5, and a maximum of 12 voting members. At least fifty percent of the membership must be elected. The Pastor may appoint two voting members. Parish trustees are eligible as appointed or elected members. It specifies 4 areas of pastoral concern, which are to be focused on by standing committees. Representatives of those committees may vote as ex officio members. Meetings are governed by a consensus decision-making model.

Task Force members expressed the view that the Parish needs a simplified, shorter Parish Council document, reflective of current practice. Examples of such documents, such as a template from the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis, briefly express the purpose of the Council, provide for selection of

members by discernment and Pastoral appointment, and permit a Pastoral council to establish appropriate committees as it sees fit, to conduct parish ministries. Also it is desirable to follow the guidelines set forth by the Statutes for Parish Pastoral Councils in the Diocese of Winona-Rochester.

There was consensus that before attempting to draft revisions or settling upon policy directions the task force needs direction concerning flexibility in light of Diocesan and Archdiocesan directives. Dr. Rydell indicated he would seek that out from Father Evans.

The meeting was adjourned with future teleconference meetings if the need arises and preparation of discussion documents in prospect.

Submitted by Jim Piggush.

Recording Secretary

James Piggush

Date

Task Force Chairperson

Edward Rydell

Date