

**RCC 19/Bulls Head/Cornhill
Planning Group Leadership Team
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting: May 27th, 2003 7:15PM
Location: Immaculate Conception
Host: RCC 19

Present: Nancy Merritt, Fr. Ray Fleming, Heide Parreno, Carl Merritt, Don Cudzillo, Pat Sullivan, Gail Lewis, Harry Pierre-Philippe, Sister Pat Flass, Pat W., Pat Graybill, Fr. Brian Cool

Absent: Fr. Michael Upson, Fr. Bob Werth, Daniel Donolli

Opening Prayer: Heidi Parreno

Additions to agenda: 1) review April retreat expenses to reimbursed to Emmanuel Church of the Deaf
2) priests meeting with Bishop Clark

Agenda: Review information gathered at April retreat
Presentations
Suggested areas of focus
Action Item(s)
Retreat bills
Meeting with Bishop Clark

Presentations:

Emmanuel Church of the Deaf

Gathered responses from deaf community relative to their experiences

- Ask themselves if the deaf language is indigenous to the church community
 - Deaf comment on awareness of church community
 - No focus on lack of voice - but are accessible and all are welcome
 - Emphasis on visual
 - Ever creating and seeking solutions to problems
 - Want to link with RCC 19 web page
- No specific actions were discussed to bring parishes together

**RCC 19 suggestions for action/communication and areas of collaboration
(attachment)**

Develop parish leadership training (in conjunction w/St. Barnards)

Areas of focus:

- leadership training
- formation of ministries
- grant proposal
- fund raising
- grant writing

Bulletin:

- profile each church
- highlight opportunities for ministries of each church
- post church bulletins for each church
- hold open houses

Coordinate calendars

- Events - avoid overlap
- Share sacramental preparation
- Coordinate national events
- CYO campus events - prayer service, Christian rap, basketball
- Church presence at Corn Hill
- Youth mass

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Saints Peter and Paul (attachment)

Focus on communication

- Monthly bulletin insert re planning group level
- Develop an All-Parish forum - listening session(s)
no decision making ==> ideas go to planning group
- Parish forum - listening session(s)
ideas go to parish council and finance council
- Develop an All-parish retreat

Immaculate Conception

Coordinate religious education

Formalize sharing sacraments

Newsletter - events

Fund raising - UNO coupons and 20% of purchases go back to parish
(during 3 specific dates)

University of Rochester

Have not met yet (end of semester)

How do we reinvent church? Nothing held sacred

Review of presentation similarities: Pat W.

Need for coordination of communications / bulletin / Website

Develop a communication plan or model

Need to report pastoral planning to parishioners

Dedicate part of each meeting to decide what goes into bulletin - make
it an agenda item

Need for Open House / Mission Week

Need for life long faith formation

Other discussion:

September - develop a strategic plan

Target September to develop communications re 2003-2008 plan

Need new blood for next round of planning

Next meeting: June 24

Host: Saints Peter and Paul

There is no July or August meetings

June meeting to be used to develop next 5 year plan

There is a concern about retaining the fruits of the retreat

April retreat expenses: Fr. Ray

Expenses were incurred by the Emmanuel Church of the Deaf

To cover the interpreters, moderator and Nazareth College

Total is \$994.15 divided by 5 churches = \$198.83 each

Meeting with Bishop Clark: Fr. Ray

February 26

group of 11 priests met with Bishop Clark (for lunch and group discussion)

- Pastoral planning meeting are successful except in the city
- City needs its own system
- Next steps _ How do we make a different way for city to plan?

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May 23 - meeting with Bishop Clark and Bill Pickett
9 priests present

- some do not want priest-only meetings
- priest group to meet again with staff
- meeting 3 - determine others interested in working in planning groups
- 3 groups will need facilitator to setup process

June 24 agenda

- Next Steps for Plan Process (need Casey)
- LLFF report
- If the church were to be created with no influence from its current existence, what would it need to look like?

**19th WARD / BULLSHEAD / CORN HILL / U of R
PLANNING GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING**

**EMMANUEL CHURCH OF THE DEAF
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
U of R NEWMAN COMMUNITY
ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF THE 19TH WARD
SAINTS PETER AND PAUL**

MINUTES

**June 24, 2003 - 7:15 PM
@ Immaculate Conception**

Present: Gail Lewis, Heide Parreno, Sister Pat Flass, Nancy Merritt, Carl Merritt, Don Cudzilo, Pat Woehrlen, Harry Pierre-Philippe, Fr. Mike Upson, Fr. Bob Werth, Fr. Ray Fleming, Pat Sullivan, Bill Pickett.

I) Sharing of Information.

- 1) 160th anniversary celebration @ Saints Peter & Paul. Bishop Clark will be celebrant at 9:30 Mass.
- 2) RCC19 art exhibit. "Many Faces of Christ". Museum quality art that is currently circulating among the parishes. Displays icons of Christ from different cultures.
- 3) Immaculate Conception: joined Corpus Christi church for celebration of the 10:30 Mass last Sunday. Liturgical dancers and choir from Immaculate Conception. This was well received by all parishioners. Nice coming together of different church cultures.
- 4) Emmanuel: new secretary needed. Parish Council to create job description and will post on web site. Anticipate 10-hours/week positions. Planning for fall picnic.
- 5) St. Monica – African American celebration will be held the first Saturday in November.

II) Building consensus.

Briefly reviewed "Action items from plan" document prepared by Pat Woehrlen. Summarizes 'where we are' in planning process. Noted that the diocesan capital campaign and strategic planning process running concurrently can be a challenge to our focus. Immaculate Conception Church asked if the planning group churches would like to participate in their annual liturgical ministry day. If there is enough interest, Fr. Mike will try to reserve location at Nazareth College. All liturgical ministers will be invited for a day of reflection and growth in their ministries. It was agreed that this idea would be taken to the respective faith communities for consideration of participation.

It was suggested that more follow-up on this spring's retreat should be undertaken during the fall meetings. If we focus on specific tasks, this may lead us toward our broader goals. It was also suggested that more communication is needed for the people in the pews regarding where we are in the planning process. Bill Pickett suggested that brief 'bytes' of information might work better

than a lengthy communication. The planning group should consider a series of short bulletin articles about the planning process.

III) Bill Pickett's Presentation

Bill Pickett joined our meeting to present some new ideas that have been floated about regarding the planning process for the urban churches. Bill noted that the planning process as originally outlined has worked best for suburban parishes. The process has been more of a challenge for the urban and rural parishes. Our planning group, along with City Center - East and City West, are about to commence the next phase of planning. These are much higher diversity groups. There has been some thought that perhaps the three planning groups should go through the next phase together. Is there a unique set of principles for doing ministry in urban areas? It is recognized that this environment offers some unique challenges as well as possibilities. The urban church is in a sense true "mission territory". Bill said that in the next several weeks there will be facilitated meetings of priests, staff and lay leadership to discuss this theme and try to develop common principles for ministry in the urban church of Rochester. Each group will try to develop principles, and then a follow-up meeting will attempt to build consensus on what the principles of urban ministry should be for our churches. The focus will be on ministry, not necessarily our churches – this will be the starting point. It is recognized that our church structures are contingent upon our ministry. Focusing on our ministries will help us to "think outside of the box." Time will be needed to build new relationships for a possibly greater collaboration.

IV) Next Meeting

The next Planning Group Committee Meeting will be held at Immaculate Conception Church on Tuesday September 23 from 7:15 to 8:30 PM. Emmanuel Church of the Deaf will host the meeting.