

**The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2008**

Present: Fr. Bill, Phyllis Baker, John Cole, Mary Connolly, Kevin Dean, Lyle Garcia,
Pam Stewart, Marilyn Wickel, and Dana Wilson
Absent: Therese Shick

1. Opening prayer: Phyllis Baker opened with a passage from Exodus. All shared their reflections.
2. Formation: Fr. Bill presented "The Practice of Focusing" by Sebastian Moore. Fr. Bill reflected on the imminent departure of three members of the Council (Lyle Garcia, Marilyn Wickel, Therese Shick). He described the change as a death like experience, with recognition of feelings of loss an important human consideration. He offered praise for the gifts of the departing members and an understanding that the new members will grow to bring their own resources to the Council.
Emphasis on then turned to discussion of the contents of hand-outs offered by Fr. Bill over the past several months. Focus evolved to further examination of the Shared Wisdom model, including inquiry, discernment, listening, letting-go, controlling, intuition and group dynamics. Members were given the assignment to complete Reflections 6, 7, and 8 in the Group Leadership handout for the next meeting.
Considering the use, value and intricacies of the Shared Wisdom model, it was agreed that Phyllis and other continuing members of the Council would meet with the new members for an on-boarding orientation of the model after induction and before the first meeting.
3. New member status: The Council has been blessed with quality applicants. Three of five people who have indicated interest have affirmed their commitment to the Council before the deadline. As of this meeting date, two had not affirmed their commitment. Outreach efforts will be made by Mary Connolly and Father Bill. There was a discussion about the candidates and all agreed - each had something of value to contribute to the Council's efforts.
It was agreed a coffee will be held after the 10:30 a.m. mass on June 1 to celebrate the commissioning of the three new members.
At the June 18 meeting, the departing Council members are invited to be present and acknowledged at the beginning of the meeting and the new members would be welcomed on the beginning of their three year terms.
4. Review Five Year Plan: Lyle Garcia distributed the revised document. It was agreed that Kevin Dean would become the Chair of the Five Year Plan Committee and that Lyle would serve as an Ex-Officio member. Two sections, *Worship* and *Spirituality and Formation*, have been completed. The document was reviewed and distinctions between formation and liturgy were discussed. Pertinent sections will be referred for review by corresponding Committee representatives. Sections on Contents and Definitions will be added to the Plan with the intent of increasing user friendliness of the superbly crafted document.

5. Review proposed agenda outline for June 2008 – May 2009: It was agreed that each member of the Council would have a specific liaison responsibility with a specific standing committee in the parish, save the President of the Council, Phyllis Baker and the Secretary, Mary Connolly. The assignments will be discussed during the next meeting. Current committees are Property Management, Social Ministry, Religious Education, Finance, Stewardship, Evangelization and Fund Raising.
Meetings from June 2008 to June 2009 are June 18, July 16, August 20, September 20, October 15, November 15, December 3, 2008 and January 21, February 21, March 18, April 22, May 16, and June 17, 2009.
6. Pastor's Corner: Fr. Bill distributed copies of the 25th anniversary journal and picture book. He said The Hunterdon Review and Hunterdon Democrat carried articles on St. John Neumann's 25th anniversary. The well written pieces described the parish's journey and its plans for celebrating the occasion. The parish will celebrate its first 25 years on Sunday, May 18, at 2 p.m. Plans are for a Mass and a blessing of its new labyrinth. Bishop Paul Bootkoski of the Diocese of Metuchen will offer the Mass.
Father Bill mentioned that a reorganization is under way concerning the Deanery Councils, including lay representation. Warren and Hunterdon counties have one deanery.
The cleaning and spruce-up by the Property Management Committee and volunteers turned out to be quite successful. The efforts and results are most appreciated.
Father Bill ended this section of the meeting with a heartfelt reiteration of his respect for and appreciation of the work of the departing Council members and his belief that the Council would continue to grow with its new membership.
7. Wednesday, June 18 meeting topics: The following items were proposed – recognition of the departing members, welcome of the new members, identification of membership liaison responsibilities, discussion of new member formation and proposals for the next radio show content.
8. Closing prayer: Phyllis Baker offered a touching portrayal of two horses, one sighted and one blind, who supported one another throughout their days together. The reflection was a metaphor for God's support of us and an affirmation of our spiritual being.

The meeting began at 8:30 a.m. and concluded at noon.

Minutes prepared by John Cole

Next meeting: June 18, 2008

Prayer: John Cole