

March 21, 2013 Exploratory Committee Meeting minutes

We are committed to unite the St Clare family so that we may live, love, worship, and celebrate Eucharist together around one table, in one church, as one body in Christ.

Members present: Fr. Dennis, Russ Aerts, Dick Geurts, Sr. Celine, Caroline Green, Julie Rohan, Rick Roundy, Karla Voss, and Mike Rentmeester-secretary

Absent: Matt VanEffen

- Members met at the parish office at 4:00 p.m.
- Previous meetings' minutes were reviewed and approved.

“Other Concerns” Discussion concerned transparency of the committee’s actions to the parish at large and responses to individual inquiries. It was recommended to have the meeting minutes posted on the parish website as well as available from the parish office upon request. The parish website under the heading **“Bulletins and Reports”** **currently** posts the parish *Long Range Plan*, the parish *Facilities Study*, and *Future Considerations*.

“Other Information/Data” Discussion centered on a review of parish statistics including:

- Our parish’s current weekly Mass attendance
- Our seating capacity of existing church sites
- Acreage of our existing sites and expansion capabilities/limitations
- Financial statistics of our existing sites (expenses & offertory support)
- Availability of priests in the short and long term

“Climate of Hospitality” The committee assembled a list of requirements we envision for our parish worship space as well as educational, office, social, and meeting spaces. Among items discussed were “what would bring a unity among us?”, “parish is primarily people – buildings are brick and mortar”, and “what are the needs of our elderly, families, and our youth”.

“Pros and Cons” The next segment of the meeting consisted of listing the “pros and cons” of using one, two, or three of our existing sites OR building a new site.

Finally, the committee secretary was directed to gather additional information for the next meeting from the three parishes already visited regarding construction costs, operating expenses, acreage, seating capacity, family units, and RE enrollment and where/when the RE students receive instruction. The secretary is also to provide information for the next meeting on parishes that have remodeled or reconfigured existing structures.

Tentative next meeting dates, all at 4pm at the parish office: April 2, April 25, and May 16

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.