

March 6, 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, Sr. Celine Goessl, Caroline Green, Julie Rohan, Rick Roundy, Matt VanEffen, Karla Voss, and Mike Rentmeester-secretary

Members excused: Dick Geurts

Members met at the parish office at 9:30am and carpoled to tour the Prince of Peace parish church, offices and social spaces in Bellevue at 10am. PofP pastoral associate Kathy Tilot conducted the tour which ended at 11:45am. The members then gathered for lunch before carpooling to St. John the Baptist parish on Howard. Deacon Manny Torres conducted the tour of the St. John the Baptist church and gathering area at 1:30pm. The tour ended at 3:00pm.

The members then gathered for discussion at Rick Roundy's office. Among the items discussed were:

1. We have toured three parishes, what are the next steps?

2. If we are to indeed come together in one location, existing or new:

-What are our seating capacity needs when condensing to 3 Masses per weekend? Does the diocese have input?

-How many square feet of building are needed to accommodate seating area, gathering space, and if new construction: offices, kitchen, social hall, meeting space, and education spaces? -How much land is available at existing sites (limitations?) or how much would be needed at a new site to meet the future needs of, and recommendations for St. Clare Parish? -What are the annual operating costs for the parishes we have toured compared to our St. Clare Parish expenses?

-We know what the building costs were for the parishes we have toured. We need to initially contact at least two architectural firms to get a free, preliminary estimate of construction/remodeling costs to accommodate seating requirements and added gathering space, and other spaces mentioned above.

3. The committee approved their mission statement as listed at the top of these minutes.

4. The committee discussed the need for total transparency in its actions on behalf of the parish. This group emphasizes they are in the research phase, gathering information, envisioning possibilities, and determining needs as they could relate to an existing or new site.

5. The committee will have their names published in the parish bulletin, parish newsletter and on the parish website to be fully accessible to members of our parish. Parishioner comments and input are welcome.

6. The committee requests the prayers of St. Clare Parish members as they proceed researching the implementation of the parish Long Term Plan.

The next meeting of the Exploratory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, March 21 at 4pm at the parish office.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20pm.