

**Collaborative Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday 1/24/2022 via Zoom**

Attendees: Father Jim, Carolyn Anderson, Kelly Meraw, Mary Campion, Dorene Christie, Odessa Sanchez, Julie Byrne, Katie Hamel, Doug Smith, Eugenia Kennedy, Mary Mullen, Rosemary Donahue, Michael Mastrianni, Russ Morton, Donna Norwood

**Meeting Minutes**

Father Jim began the meeting with an opening prayer

**1. Introduction of new and current members:**

Russ Morton, Odessa Sanchez, Dorene Christie representing St. John; Katie Hamel, Julie Byrne and Michael Mastrianni representing St. Paul.

Current members: Doug Smith, Eugenia Kennedy, Mary Mullen, Rose Mary Donahue, Carolyn Anderson and Donna Norwood

**2. CPC Historical Perspective** – Rose Mary gave a brief update on the history of the CPC over the last 6 years since Father Jim joined the Collaborative.

**Focus areas of the CPC have been:**

- Focus Groups – both Parishes have conducted focus groups to obtain the voices of the parishioners
- Service Commissions – the service activities of both parishes were combined and service groups between the two have been formed
- Social activities – both parishes holding their own as well as combined Collaborative events including two very successful Outdoor Masses
- Pastoral Plan – we completed our Pastoral Plan; just as we finished the Pandemic happened. The SJSP staff have been instrumental in moving the plan forward
- CPC has been assisting with responses to Parish on Pandemic protocols, Mass activities and resumption of other activities.

Link to Pastoral Plan:

[https://sjspwellesley.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/SJSP\\_Collaborative\\_Pastoral\\_Plan\\_2020-2022\\_Packet.pdf](https://sjspwellesley.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/SJSP_Collaborative_Pastoral_Plan_2020-2022_Packet.pdf)

**3. CPC Mission and Purpose** – Father Jim

- CPC is an advisory group to help the Pastor in achieving the vision and goals for the Collaborative
- CPC is a visioning board to help with Strategic Planning – where are we now and what needs to happen to get us to our goals
- CPC is instrumental in bringing the two Parishes together
- As we completed the Pastoral Plan, we went after the “low hanging fruit” in two focus areas – Adult Faith Formation and Service
- As we started out, things were happening organically at each Parish. St. John had more Commissions and Committees. St. Paul was doing many things as well just more in an ad hoc manner. We started from scratch to bring them together.

- For example, we sent out a note about Ministry to Refugees and we got 25 members from St. Paul and 25 from St. John's. The visioning of the CPC led to these joint activities and bringing the two Parishes together under one Collaborative.
- The CPC assists Father Jim in keeping the pulse on the parishes and plans so that the history and culture of each Parish is maintained and brings the strengths of both to one Collaborative
- CPC keeps pulse on what's happening, what's ground swelling and what needs to happen
- As Pandemic took force, the CPC was instrumental in pivoting to remote outreach. Fortunately, the CPC had the medical expertise with two doctors on the CPC assisting with what could be accomplished and the practical way to perform our ministries while keeping the Collaborative members safe.

## **PROGRAM UPDATES**

### **4. Update on Synod on Synodality – Kelly**

- The Pope has opened a 3 year Synod on Synodality –
- Growing in our Baptismal call, we need to reach out to the most marginalized and listen to them – to include lapsed Catholics
- Kelly putting together a committee who will execute the listening sessions which will hopefully happen by Lent and Easter.
- There have been a lot of small group meetings with hope that more CPC members can be involved. They have been working with local Protestant Congregations as well.
- Resources from other areas outside of Boston have been helpful in creating our materials.

Archdiocese of Washington DC/ Archbishop Wilton Gregory have great resources and information which we are leveraging. Archdiocese of Washington DC on synod:

[Synod 2021 - 2023 - Archdiocese of Washington \(adw.org\)](https://www.adw.org/synod-2021-2023)

- Call or email Kelly if you are interested in joining
- Hoping to have 5 or 6 listening sessions, virtual and in person. Kelly will formalize schedule over the next 3-4 weeks.
- Our collaborative will submit a document to Archdiocese by July 15<sup>th</sup> which will then be collapsed into larger document created by the Archdiocese.

### **5. Update from Service Commission and POWIR – Mary Campion**

- Mary and Donna gave brief updates on the successful Christmas Wish at St. John's and The Giving Tree at St. Paul's. Both programs gave hundreds of gifts and gift card donations to those in need thanks to the incredible generosity of Parishioners.
- Michael updated us on the very successful efforts of St. Vincent De Paul's members' outreach to the elderly at the holidays with home visits
- POWIR update – the family from Afghanistan has left to be with family in California. Three young men (ages 20, 24 and 25) have moved into the apartment. Two speak English very well with backgrounds in both a dental program and environmental science. POWIR team has been assisting with taking them shopping, getting winter coats, opening bank accounts, etc.
- CPC can assist in identifying and recommending potential job opportunities that could be available to them
- Hope is to get younger members of the Collaborative to help with outings, to provide companionship and teaching them how to use the "T" etc.

- Russ then asked if we can somehow assist another family – as there is much enthusiasm in the Collaborative to assist in this way
- Kelly discussed how gainful employment and financial freedom of this group is key to our ability to take on the next group. Getting an update to and sharing with parishioners will be key to this success.

## **6. CPC Meetings Proposed Agenda Format**

Carolyn discussed consistent format for meetings going forward

- Agenda will include – “pulse of the parishes” – CPC role in helping to be eyes and ears in the community – perhaps CPC members can be available after Masses once per month
- Inviting members from Finance, Committees and Service Commission to give an overview of their activities, at least annually.
- Pastor’s Minutes – what is on Father Jim’s mind and how can CPC assist?
- Special topics, updates or new issues
- There are two officer roles on the CPC – Vice Chair- and Secretary. Both positions to be filled for the upcoming year. We will elect officers in the Spring.
- What are our strategic goals for 2022?

Kelly has requested a picture and bio be sent to Tricia Bombara to be shared with the Collaborative.

[Tricia.bombara@sjspwellesley.org](mailto:Tricia.bombara@sjspwellesley.org)

**Next Meeting is Monday, February 21, 2022.**