

Transition Team Minutes
Aug 24 2019

Attendance: Fr John, Father Raymond, Leanne Jennings, Andy Webster, Tom Porter , Pete Comeau, Chuck Mills, Laura Joyce, Judy Griffith-Coulombe, Eric Brown, Chris O'Hara

Regrets: Dane Berringer

Facilitator: Leanne

Song: *Build Your Kingdom Here*- led by Andy

Reflection: from Pope Benedict: *Come Holy Spirit*- given by Pete

Reading: from John 27:2- on the Feast of St Bartholomew

Prayer: The Transition Prayer

Minutes from Aug 7th were accepted.

Old Business:

Naming Process: Chris mentioned that 19 of the 20 new parishes have submitted their new name choices. He feels we will probably be given one of our first two choices- Good Shepherd or Divine Mercy. We should hear within the next few weeks. Andy suggested the use of a corporate life verse from Hebrews 13:21 should Good Shepherd be selected. Once established, the new parish name can be used in all forms of communication.

Check-in Questionnaire: Leanne gave a quick review of her findings highlighting a few points.

- communities need more prep in regard to the transition process
- need to communicate the importance of the changes in our communities
- need to select leaders in each community to help with implementing the changes- not up to the transition team member- don't micro-manage
- there is a need to move forward on some of the suggestions
- feeling overwhelmed at time with a need to focus on one area at a time
- possibly meet in smaller sub-groups between meetings, then bring findings to the next meeting on post on Slack
- although the churches will be grouped by counties we still need to maintain the identities of the individual groups.
- Geography still a challenge
- In comparison to the few churches mentioned in Divine Renovation we are a larger group, in a rural setting so may have to set different standards. Hopefully we can be the inspiration for parishes in similar situations.
- Deadlines need to be respected and assigned tasks completed

- Need to complete the Act sections of the workbook, especially with the Sept. deadline. Some parts may need to be relegated to different committees, such as finance
- Some meetings seemed rushed-possibly we need to summarize what has been accomplished at meetings and what to prepare for the next one.
- At times feel overwhelmed and that this project is more demanding than expected- team members need to look to their CLT 's for support

Observations resulting from the Check-in Questionnaire discussion:

- Although this committee will finish its mandate at the end of Sept., it was suggested that we still meet until Jan to help implement some of the ideas in our communities and to give support.
- The Leadership Team, Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Finance Team should all be in place by Feb 2020. Once that happens leadership training and meetings will take place.
- To familiarize the communities with all names of all of the churches in the parish, it was suggested the litany of the names be incorporated into each mass.
- Father John commented on two powerful moments in the past week which he felt demonstrated three positive aspects of joining communities together for shared activities: the concert at St Joe's on Aug 18th and the two cemetery masses.
- Connection with the First Nation people has been attempted with little success. Possibly there are First Nation people in our church communities who could reach out to the Native People.
- To help prepare for all of the growth and changes, various books, videos, You Tube presentations, *Clifton Strength Finders*, two computer sites- Formed and U of Evangelization, were suggested as possible avenues to explore in each community.

Finance: A sub-committee on finance will prepare the workbook info for the final report to be submitted at the end of Sept including a 2020 budget proposal. The Royal Bank will be used throughout the Parish.

Pastoral Ministries and Evangelization: Andy, Leanne, with input and guidance from Chris, guided each church rep in the examination of the ministries at their respective church according to specific criteria. An Excel spread sheet was simultaneously completed. See the attached information.

The program ALPHA was once again stressed as our main method to Evangelize. People need to be encouraged to invite others in the congregations as well as those outside the church to come to an ALPHA program. There needs to be leadership training, specifically ALPHA, especially for the churches in the west in order to offer strong programs in those areas. .

Due to time constraints, the team was asked to finish completing the spread sheet

for the sections of ministry and worship using the suggested criteria:

- For Ministry- how are you servicing your community
- -are there area in which you can do more-care of the poor-
- healing- reconciliation for the marginalized Catholics
- For Worship- what elements do you have , where can you do better, where
- can we collaborate
-

What is your church's plan to grow?

Leanne will forward the spread sheet for completion.

Upcoming Events; Bridgetown- small group meeting hosted by a parishioner in her home: *PRESENCE- The mystery of the Eucharist*

3 week DVD series –starting Sept 18- 37 Church St, Bridgetown

Halifax- Atlantic School of Theology- Catechetical- Passing on the Faith - \$100 per parish- lunch included –Sept.

Halifax- Assembly of the People of God- Oct 25th and 26th -\$20- \$25
Friday evening program is live streamed. All of the team is encouraged to participate.

Facilities- Tom reminded everyone to submit the information on their facilities if they haven't already done so. He also mentioned that each church needs to have a responsible minister and RCMP checks for certain ministries.

Individual Formation- each team member was asked to complete some aspect of formation and to report on what they completed at the next meeting.(eg.- watch a You Tube presentation, read a chapter from *Rebuilt*)

Next Mtg: Sept 7th, Berwick 1-4pm – finish spread sheet

- Facilities report Dane & Tom
- Report on Formation experience
- Review Outline on Communication by Andy

Future Meetings; Sept 14- 9-4- Middleton

Sept 28- 9-12 finalized report for the Diocese