

# Minutes

## St. Paul Denver ECC Council Zoom Meeting May 16, 2023

Attendees: Mary Pero, Council President  
Carla Wolin, Vice President  
Sue Kaessner, Treasurer  
Sue Hester, Secretary  
Liz Begalla, Council Representative to Region  
Fr. Michael Nicosia  
Fr. Don Sutton, pastor  
Congregation members: David Kottenstette, Steve Pero, Bobbie Hobbs

Mary called the meeting to order at 3:00 and was warmly welcomed as new Council President.

Note: Action items from questions and discussions are highlighted below in yellow.

### **Financial Update (Sue K):**

Sue Kaessner presented the First Quarter 2023 Revenue/Expenses showing expenses of \$9,166 and revenue of \$14,024. Sue commented that we are in a good financial position and said that parishioners are paying their pledges, and we thank everyone for their generosity. Four parishioners are using Zelle, and it is working well. Two parishioners have made their donations directly from their IRA using the Qualified Charitable Donation provision.

Comments and questions:

- Fr. Don is the only one who has a debit card associated with the First Bank account; Fr. Michael has the numbers and periodically uses it for on-line purchases. It would probably be more efficient to get a physical card for Michael and Sue K. will pursue this.
- Question was brought up re payments to Michael—has his monthly stipend been increased to \$500 a month as approved by the congregation in March? Sue K. will get that corrected.
- Question raised about Pastor's discretionary fund (and other designated funds)—could they be shown as an asterisk below the statements so there isn't confusion about how much we have in operating funds. Sue K. will do this.

- Question raised whether purchases are using our tax exempt status number.  
Sue K. will send the tax exempt statements to Fr. Don and Fr. Michael.

### **Liability Insurance (Carla):**

Carla handed out copies of the declaration page from our new liability insurance from the Insurance Board, Partners in Protection, and briefed the Council on coverage as follows.

Explanation of Coverage from Declaration Page:

- \$1 million **each occurrence** for all claims in policy term
- **Personal and advertising injury**- covers claims that our “business” caused harm to another from libel, slander, defamation, copyright infringement. This pays for legal fees and court related costs.
- **General aggregate limit** is the maximum limit of insurance payable during any given annual policy period for all losses other than those arising from specified exposures.
- **Completed operations coverage**- Property damage or injury caused by any work that a contractor performed in the past.
- **Rented to you- \$100,000** – example- faulty wiring cause a fire that damages structure- our limit the \$100,000 will be paid to owner.

### **Synod (Liz):**

As St Paul’s representative to the region for planning of the one-day Synod held on April 22, Liz said everyone was pleased as to how it went, and that it was good practice for the national Synod which will be held October 12-16. 2024 at the Y of the Rockies.

Michael commented that he was disappointed with the low participation from St. Paul, and that we need to enhance our identity with the region. He felt one of the reasons Pax Christi didn’t survive was that there wasn’t much interest/participation with the region. Sue H. and Sue K. attended by zoom, and felt it went well. There was a very valuable break out session on zoom where we were able to learn some ideas on how the other communities have been able to grow.

Carla suggested monthly meetings to get people more engaged, and decision was to hold monthly discussion/education sessions after Mass. The first topic will be The Carisms of the ECC by George von Stamwitz, keynote speaker at the Synod.

Mary and Fr. Don will ask community for other topics of interest.

**Important Note: Because minute taker's notes and memories of others were unclear, Fr. Don, Fr. Michael, Mary, and Sue H later decided the first monthly meeting will be held Saturday, June 3. (who coordinates? Bobbie? Council?)**

### **Lunch Brigade:**

Sue H. said that we weren't having many St Paul people come on the Saturdays selected by Sixth Avenue. At first, we had many, but now one or two, largely due to Sixth Avenue having many helpers. Sue wondered if we could possibly take the lead on a second Saturday during the month and ask Sixth Avenue to work with us. Mary will talk with Irene about the meeting Irene had mentioned that we might want to learn about.

### **Hospitality:**

Bobbie had mentioned need for wagon, but said if she can get help loading, she wouldn't need one. Door to kitchen may be opened for easier unloading.

### **Pride Weekend:**

Sixth Avenue is going to march in the Sunday parade, so will join St. Paul in worship Saturday, June 24. Gray LaFond from Mary of Magdala will speak during the sermon, representing the young queer community. Fr. Don asked Michael to preach. There will be pride-themed décor. Wine, cheese, heavy hors d'oeuvres afterwards (Bobbie to coordinate). On Sunday morning, Fr. Don to host coffee and donuts for walkers outside his condo building since the parade begins at Cheeseman Park.

For Pride booth, Liz asked if communion could be given, and Fr. Michael said that the booth is too small, but there will be a couple of chairs inside the booth where conversations could take place. Fr. Don would like to have a tri-fold ready to hand out; Fr. Michael and Fr. Don will work on this.

### **Constitution and Bylaws:**

Committees will be set up to revise Constitution and develop Bylaws; Mary & Carla to head.

### **Membership List and email account:**

Need to determine what constitutes a member of our community. Sue H had coordinated this in connection with the regional bishop election, but since that time, people have left and there are some new regulars.

There are several different lists: Sue K, Constant Contact, and a long list associated with the St. Paul email account. **Mary will coordinate working on this as she has time.**

Note: This is from a previous Council meeting. "Agreed that we should have ONE list rather than so many, which would be titled [st-paul-denver-ecc@googlegroups.com](mailto:st-paul-denver-ecc@googlegroups.com)"

Sue H regularly checks our gmail account; Sue K not so regularly. Mary mentioned that we get notifications of deposits into our bank account at this. No further discussion or resolution on these topics.

### **Miscellaneous Topics:**

- Greg is willing to continue to serve as the designated representative to the State regarding our tax exempt status.
- Briefly discussed hosting a poetry reading and book selling for Joe Murphy, but no decision was reached as to when.
- Fr. Michael brought up "Beautiful Redemption," an organization which connects churches with social services needs, and later sent out an email asking Council about interest in joining.
- Per Fr Don, it would be nice to celebrate the anniversary of our joining the ECC and joining Sixth Avenue.
- Subsequent to the meeting, Mary sent an email to Council suggesting that our newsletter could be done monthly with weekly bulletins with church calendar, etc. This was adopted by the Council, and Sue and Michael will work together on it.
- In addition, since the newsletter will now be monthly, Mary suggested that we print at least two copies for those without email.
- **Next Council Meeting, Saturday, July 15.**