

**St. Francis Parish Council Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting; Brunsman Hall**  
**Tuesday, January 14, 2020**

Fred Bermudez, present  
Ed Condon, present  
Francine Freitas, present  
Jo Gonsalves, excused  
Darrin Greer, vice chair, present  
Margaret Healy, excused  
Linda Hill, present  
Melba Hinojosa, present  
Sue Kenney, present

Patrick Mahan, present  
Emer McKenna, present  
Kent Meyers, excused  
Gary Myrick, excused  
Fr. Des O'Reilly, present  
Bob Reid, chair, present  
Janet Vitt, secretary, present

Also attending was J.D. Warrick of the parish staff.

Chair Bob Reid opened the meeting at 6:11 p.m., and Linda Hill led the room in prayer.

The minutes of the November 12, 2019, council meeting, upon motion by Janet Vitt, seconded by Patrick Mahan, were approved unanimously. They will be posted on the parish website.

**Introduction of new Member**

Chair Bob Reid welcomed Sue Kenney as a new member of the Parish Council, replacing Tom Sweetman.

**Pastor's remarks**

Father Des expressed appreciation for all the parish members who helped with Advent and Christmas liturgies. He thanked Patrick and Maria Mahan for hosting the Christmas party for staff and members of the Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils.

**Chair's Report**

Chair Bob said he has invited Michelle Fernandez to attend a Parish Pastoral Council meeting to update the council on the state of the Steps Ministry. She plans to attend the February council meeting.

**Council Member comments**

Sue Kenney said she liked the use of the statue of St. Francis by the Nativity set by the altar during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Melba Hinojosa recommended Council recognition for the 20 years of volunteerism by Carol Spinella with the baptism preparation and ceremonies. Melba also reminded the council of the Jan. 26 profession and consecration ceremony and reception for four Secular Franciscan members of our parish.

#### **Committees & Liaison Reports**

- Finance -- Janet Vitt reported that the Finance Council will be discussing and dealing with the following:
  - a) Start a long-term budget for future repairs and maintenance using the Parish Facilities Analysis and also will begin the next Parish budget-planning process.
  - b) The school has a deficit and is determining how it will deal with that.
  - c) The parish has been renting a storage unit off-site and will empty that to eliminate rent on the unit.
  - d) Expenses for the now-empty friary are minimal for lighting and water.
  - e) The Parish Picnic expenses (\$1,480) were over its \$800 budget.
  - f) Donations to the parish have been down by about 3 percent, and that October sale of mums November commemorations was also down a few hundred dollars.
  
- **Buildings & Grounds** – Janet Vitt said advertising has been placed for a custodian for the parish, according to Parish business manager Amanda Evans. There was nothing to report about moving the bike racks in the school yard or regarding a formal dedication of the hanging of a donated portrait of Sr. Claire Graham in Brunsman Hall.
  
- **Ministries of Care** – Edward Condon
  
- **Liturgy** – Francine Freitas said the committee next meetings Feb. 1 and subsequent first Thursday of each month.

- **School** – Fred Bermudez reported on these items:
  1. A Pancake Breakfast and school tour on Jan. 26 is part of the observance of Catholic Schools Week.
  2. The school is interviewing for a IT staff member.
  3. A golf tournament fundraiser will be May 15 at Bing Maloney Course.
  4. The school cafeteria has all new appliances
  5. The school plans to partner again with the parish to sell fireworks.
  
- **LGBT** – Ed Condon said the LGBT Ministry has a new steering committee of about eight persons who are discussing what steps will be next for the ministry. His report will be attached to these minutes.
  
- **Steps** – Emer McKenna summarized an update provided by Michelle Hernandez-Flores. That update is attached to these minutes.
  
- **Faith Formation** – Emer McKenna outlined these upcoming notable dates for youth in Faith Formation:
  1. Sunday, Feb. Jan. 19 – Day of Service
  2. March 28 – First Reconciliation
  3. April 25 – First Communion Retreat
  4. May 2-3 – First Communion

The next Council meeting will be at 6 p.m., Tuesday, February 11, 2020, in Brunsman Hall.

Janet Vitt and Francine Freitas will provide the opening and closing prayers, respectively.

There being no more business, Melba Hinojosa led the Council in a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Vitt, secretary

## St. Francis of Assisi Parish – LGBT Ministry - 2020

LGBT Ministry Mission: We strive to create a safe space for LGBT Parishioners and allies to explore and affirm their Catholic Christian journey with Christ and each other.

Background: In October 2018, with the encouragement of our Pastor and the leadership of a small group of parishioners, St Francis of Assisi Parish — LGBT Ministry held a Day of Dialogue. Over 55 attendees, including Bishop Jaime Soto and Rev. Desmond T. O'Reilly attended a 3+ hour spiritual and community building gathering.

The event evaluations affirmed the activity as a beneficial experience for many individuals from differing perspectives. In reviewing the evaluations, three suggestions were most frequently noted for follow up:

1. Regular activities of LGBT Ministry to build community and visibility within St. Francis Parish.
2. Outreach to the parents of LGBT People and their families to support their journeys.
3. Engagement with other Catholic parishes, faith communities, and networks to identify resources and deepen our journey with Christ and each other.

Looking Forward: In January 2020, a small group (Roger De Silva, Frances Freitas, Gabriella Carrol, Norman Lorenz and Ed Condon) gathered to discuss next steps. After good soup, warm conversation, and sharing, the following actions were identified:

1. Active outreach in the parish bulletin to welcome individuals to submit name and emails for an electronic mailing list. Bulletin ads will run 3 weeks starting January 12, 2020
2. Four Events:
  - a. Lenten Celebration — March 12<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> (Space to be confirmed)
    - i. Spiritual Reflection
    - ii. Service Activity
    - iii. Hospitality
  - b. Spring Social for LGBT Parishioners of St. Francis -- Hospitality
  - c. Summer Activity — Outreach to other parishes and faith communities
  - d. Fall — Family Focus — Education and Reflection for Parents and Allies of LGBT Youth/Young Adults.
4. LGBT Ministry Steering Committee — Our goal will be to build upon the current five to a group of eight who will meet monthly. Standing Committee meeting will be 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 6 pm. (Space to be confirmed)

For more information or to join the mailing list - [LGBTministry@stfrancisparish.com](mailto:LGBTministry@stfrancisparish.com), Ed Condon, 916-690-4485.



## Step and Breakfast Ministry Update

January 14, 2020

As an overview, the Step Ministry provides temporary shelter for up to 16 people nightly. Each person is given a 2 week pass that must be renewed twice monthly. If someone does not show up by 7pm, their space could be given to someone waiting with a 1-night pass.

All "Guests" must have a valid ID and their information is run through two websites: Megan's law and the National Sex Offender site. Once cleared, we note their information in a Master Residency Log so that we may refer to it if they stop by again.

There is a security guard that walks the perimeter of the parish center, church and school throughout the night. There have been people sleeping on the steps of the church recently and security has been told to ask them to leave as we do not want an additional person on the property.

Breakfast is served in the morning and all guests are out of the courtyard by 7am.

In the last few months we have had a meeting with volunteers and are working on updating the guest guidelines and protocols with Fr. Des as the last person to review and approve. We will reconvene once all are approved to review with all ministers.

Meetings are held with the guests as needed and we have had a few to review and refresh the guidelines. Michelle keeps track of any offences and speaks with the guest individually when necessary.

On occasion we may have a guest that does not fit in well with the other guests. As we need to be mindful of all their guests and their specific needs and/or triggers, we have had to ask a few guests not to return. This has been in partnership with Fr. Des and Amanda Evans. This is not the easiest part of the ministry, but we need to consider all and the delicacy of the guests that visit nightly.

We have had one guest who was placed in assisted living as we were not able to accommodate him any longer.

We are in the process of obtaining new cots as the ones that we have are old and some are falling apart. I believe that they are at least 4 years old.

We are also in need of volunteers for the breakfast ministry. This has been in the bulletin, and I have received people who are interested, but mostly for the evening ministry. If the parish council could support the ministry by "recruiting" anyone that they feel would be a good fit that would be appreciated. They can always reach out to me.

Please let me know if you need any additional information. You can reach me at:

916-752-4730; [StepMinistry@StFrancisParish.com](mailto:StepMinistry@StFrancisParish.com)

Peace

Michelle Hernandez-Flores