

Church of Our Lady and St Dympna, Aspley

Report of the Meeting of the Parish Leadership Team: Tuesday 7 May 2019

Present: Fr John, Sr Gabriel, Justin Bissell, Kay Buxton, Ike Soo Choon, Eva Spanevello, Elvira, Ian Dove and Rod Campbell

Apologies:

Fr John opened the meeting at 7.10 with a prayer, and welcomed members to the meeting. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss the Constitution of the group, and to establish an agenda for the next meeting. However, there was also a need for members present to learn more about each other, and to discuss the concept of a parish leadership team.

Each of the members present added further information and stories of their lives and activities.

Fr John presented the Constitution, including some revisions that had emerged since the first meeting, in response to that meeting's direction to provide responses to the Constitution.

Vision Statement: Comment from discussion

The Constitution is not a binding document, but a living document that provides a starting point for a Parish Leadership Team that advises the parish Priest and provides leadership to consult with parishioners and other stakeholders, to suggest programs and activities to increase the cohesiveness and spiritual development of all members of the parish community, and to support Parish activities. Therefore, the Constitution gives shape and direction to the PL team, and can be amended as needed.

In effect, the Constitution provided a model for the PL Team to enliven others.

The Mission Statement: Comment from discussion

The separate items of the Mission Statement were accepted. Implications arising from each Mission Statement item are addressed in the following Clauses.

Role and Function: Comments from discussion

There was discussion about each of the clauses, and the discussion followed two paths: (a) acceptance of the clauses of the constitution; and (b) implications for action. The implications will be addressed in these minutes in a separate section (below).

The Roles and Functions of the PL Team as listed in the Constitution were endorsed.

Objectives: Comments from discussion

Much of the time of the meeting was spent in this part of the Constitution. Again the clauses were endorsed, while the implications and suggestions for action will be addressed below.

Team Membership: Comments from discussion

Fr John outlined the membership in terms of ex officio (Parish Priest, Pastoral Minister, School Principal or representative and Chair of the Parish Finance Committee) and eight elected/appointed members.

There was discussion about avoiding the issue of the same persons remaining on the PL Team for too long. The problem has been the lack of numbers of people wanting to be members, even when asked.

It was also decided that the Chair and Secretary of the PL Team be appointed for a term of one year.

Again the clauses were endorsed, with clarifying information provided about the six years of service.

Team Meetings:

The three clauses were endorsed, with the rider that meetings be limited to 90 minutes.

Annual Parish Meeting: the need for this meeting was endorsed.

Implications from discussion → agenda items for the next meeting.

1. Addressing the Constitution: Ian Dove suggested that the Constitution needed an extra clause concerning **transparency, openness and accountability; that is a documented process for changing the Constitution**. How do we measure stakeholder involvement, communicate decisions, manage risk, etc. This suggestion was agreed with, and Ian was asked to draft the relevant clause for discussion at the next meeting.
2. Appointing the Chair and Secretary of the Parish Leadership Team. These positions will be made from among the ordinary members of the PL Team, and not from the ex-officio members. **Rod Campbell was nominated for the Chair, and Kay Buxton for the position of Secretary**. Members agreed to their nomination and acceptance of the respective positions.
3. Addressing issues for the development of a Parish Community when parishioners attend four separate mass times each weekend, and comparatively few move between mass times; that is, how do we engage all parishioners in the development of a more cohesive community. Fr John complimented the parish community for the many ways in which the parish community operates: Aspleycare, Family groups, Sacramental Program, liturgy groups, parish school, youth groups, etc. What is needed further are **ways in which more parishioners can become engaged in addition to their current Sunday observances at a particular Mass**. Or again, How can all these groups and mass time participants be brought into the perception of a whole parish community?

Discussion revolved around a number of possibilities:

- (a) Single mass once per year for that one weekend.
- (b) Annual parish ball, dinner, social event (e.g. family groups)
- (c) Celebrate Annual Parish Day; perhaps the second Sunday in May, on or about the Feast of St Dymphna (15 May).
- (d) Reinstate Multicultural Sunday last Sunday in August or first Sunday in September as a single mass only weekend.

(e) Therefore provide two single-mass weekends.

4. Tapping into the resources inherent among the parents of the school children. (Not financial resources) The Sacramental Program is one approach, and will continue. As well, the 5.00 p.m. Mass on the fourth Sunday of each month will continue, with children contributing to the liturgy, and the further development of the amount and quality of that contribution. The question is: ***How can the Parish connect with the parents of the school children? In what ways can the Parish community connect with the parents, whether they are parishioners or not?***

5. ***Establishing and Conducting an Annual Parish Meeting***

Fr John suggested that this meeting be a joint meeting of all groups, including the Parish Finance Committee, as well as short reports from other groups such as Aspleycare, liturgy, youth, family groups, PL Team etc.

Other suggestions included:

- (a) How to manage information-giving sessions
- (b) How to conduct an open forum, if we wish to include that as part of the meeting
- (c) Presentations by visitor, or by parishioner
- (d) Providing an open agenda in advance of the meeting

6. ***Reporting the decisions and actions of the PL Team***

Should someone provide a short report before the end of each weekend mass two weeks after each PL Team Meeting?

Report in the Newsletter. Questions: who, what, when, and how?

7. ***Conducting a Commissioning Mass***

There was discussion about how the members of the PL Team (and Finance Committee?) can be presented to parishioners. Would this occur at all four masses? Different people? Same people?

8. ***Conducting Morning Tea after the 9.00 a.m. Sunday Mass***

There are seven Family Groups, and each has offered to host a month; that leaves four or five other months (we may choose to leave January off the roster).

Drawing a roster? When to begin? Who consults and supports these groups in this activity?

Conclusion of Meeting. Fr John lead the members in prayer, and the meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

Rod Campbell and Kay Buxton

21 May 2019