FINAL MINUTES

St. Paul Denver ECC Council Meeting

February 18, 2025

**Action Items are bold and in a bigger font**

Attendees:

* Sue Hester, President
* Michele Yonker, Treasurer
* Tom Kitts, Board member
* Liz Begalla, Board member
* Kirsten Barnard, Guest (until elected at the Annual meeting)
* Fr. Michael Nicosia, Co-Pastor
* Fr. Don Sutton, Co-Pastor

Sue called the meeting to order, and the first order of business was a discussion of who will serve as St. Paul’s Representative to the Regional ECC now that Liz Begalla will be moving. Kirsten Barnard volunteered to serve in that role which also makes her a member of the Council. Kirsten confirmed that she is prepared to serve a two-year term in this role.

Sue discussed the ECC questionnaire distributed to the various parishes concerning the performance of the Bishop and Vicar for the region**. Liz offered to complete the document and return it to Sue.**

Fr. Michael summarized conflict at a recent Saturday Mass involving clergy and the community. He stated that those involved have met and resolved issues raised. In addition, members of Council have been reaching out to other members of our community to see how they are processing the incident.

Fr. Don talked of his desire to retire from pastoral duties and importance of succession planning in all organizations, including our church. He was clear that St. Paul needs to address its next chapter, minus Fr. Don as Co-pastor with the ultimate possibility that Fr. Michael may be leaving at some point as well.

Fr. Don stated that he would still being involved in parish activities, including in a Eucharistic role.

Originally, he stated his retirement would be effective March 31st, but is willing to look at a different date, but not one too far in the future.

Several members of Council talked about next steps in the process of looking for a replacement for Fr. Don. Fr. Michael said the ECC Constitution allows the Council to begin that process.

Fr. Don suggested the Council may consider enlisting the aid of Pastor Penny Walsh in helping us find our way through this process.

Liz Begalla made a motion that the Council accept Fr. Don’s retirement and commence the process to investigate our next move in determining the proper course of action considering Fr. Don’s departure as Co-Pastor.

**Kirsten suggested that Council members provide ideas to Sue as to what should be done in our efforts to identify and recruit a new Co-Pastor.**

**It was also decided that Fr. Don will draft a letter to the community to be included in the next edition of E-Currents as well as a hard copy to be available at Mass Saturday, the 22nd.**

Michele presented the CY Operating Budget of $47,235. She also discussed the status of community pledges and budget areas that need to be reviewed. Pledges to date are in the amount of $29,260, leaving some shortfall.

Tom offered a motion to approve the Budget as presented, and it was approved.

The budget as well as other operational issues, including the pending departure of Fr. Don, will be discussed at the annual meeting March 1, 2025.

Fr. Michael asked the Council about plans for Ash Wednesday. It was decided that a simple ceremony consisting of ashes and readings will take place at 4:30 pm.

Fr. Michael reminded the Council about the national ECC purchasing an ad in the upcoming USA Today’s inaugural Easter edition. Photos from local ECC parishes may be included in the ad and he is encouraging us to identify pictures which may reflect our parish**. Feedback should be directed to Fr. Michael**