

# Saint John the Baptist – Evangelization & Stewardship Commission

## Meeting Agenda/Minutes

<b>Date:</b>	September 19, 2017	<b>Time:</b>	7:30 pm (Dinner 5:30; Orientation 6:00; Prayer 6:30)
<b>Chair/ Vice Chair</b>	Linda Harmon Charlie Nickoloff	<b>Location:</b>	St. John's
<b>Recorder:</b>	Brandon Delbow	<b>PLC Rep:</b>	Neil Steffl

Member/Attendee	Present	Member/Attendee	Present	Member/Attendee	Present	Member/Attendee	Present
Brandon D.	X	Linda H.	X	Deacon Gary S.	X		
Kathryn H.	A	Jane H.	X	Jim S.	X		
Mark H.	A	Charlie N.	X	Neil S.	X		
<b>Staff Representative:</b>	Deacon Gary						
<b>Guest(s) &amp; Purpose:</b>	Kate Anderson, discerning membership; Adam Rooble, director of youth ministry; Stephanie Waite, PLC at large/liason						

**VISION:** Deepen and strengthen the faith of parishioners while maintaining an adequate worship space, offering opportunities for faith formation, providing a just wage for staff, with a balanced parish budget.

### Opening Prayer and Introductions

- 1) E&S opened with a round of introductions with a special welcome to Kate A., discerning membership.
  - a. The commission Member Listing was circulated for review.
- 2) Members and guests recited the Prayer for a Fruitful Meeting.

### Administrative Activities

- 1) Membership: Linda challenged members to discern their involvement and charisms as they pertain to the commission and attached committees.
  - a. The withdrawal of former member Tamara N. was announced, and E&S thanked her for her service.
- 2) E&S Commission June 2017 Meeting Minutes were reviewed.
  - a. Neil S. motioned to approve; Jim seconded. No discussion – June 2017 Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.
- 3) PLC Minutes from June 2017 have been posted on the SJB website.
  - a. There was a brief discussion about missing attachments that are referenced within the PLC minutes. Feedback was sent to PLC via Stephanie W.
- 4) A Parish Organizational Chart was distributed during dinner and reviewed.
  - a. Members discussed potentially including information about school departments/staff on the chart and determined it would be helpful to include numbers of staff under department headings to foster perspective. Comments were given to Stephanie W. for PLC consideration.

### Evangelization - Reconnecting: “reaching out to those absent”

- 1) Neil S. reported.
  - a. E&S was challenged to determine where it should place its energy this year, and discussed various avenues for evangelization during the 2017-2018 commission year:
    - i. Reaching out to inactive parish membership making for a great opportunity to evangelize.
    - ii. Start a list of functions to which one could invite the inactive such as Fall Fest or a special speaker rather than to attend Mass or adoration. Then, invite them and meet them there!
    - iii. Give additional tools to those who have invited friends to come back to faith but have not and are on the evangelizing prayer list. Offer a guided program/book study based

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on the book called “Return.” St. Vincent’s Church in Brooklyn Center was cited as an example.

- iv. Create an evangelizing prayer list guided by a program called “Return,” based on a book. St. Vincent’s Church in Brooklyn Center was cited as an example.

### Stewardship - Prayer, Service, Annual/Capital Giving, Legacy

- 1) Reporting: members were directed to the parish “2017 Fiscal Year-End Financial Report.”
  - a. E&S was appreciative of the timely release of the report.
  - b. Linda called to mind how the school subsidy is not reported, namely that it should perhaps be shown *how* numbers from the school even out. This echoed similar conversations from the previous commission year.
  - c. E&S expressed ongoing interest to report on sacraments, given the rise in new parishioners, weddings, and the like. The suggestion for such reporting made by E&S last year found its way back to E&S. As a result, it was left undecided which commission is charged with sharing statistics about “how we do church” at SJB.
    - i. **ACTION: Deacon Schneider was tasked with addressing said question.**
  - d. Members recognized the Holy Spirit’s gifts of four accomplished accountants to the commission, and then wondered whether it is logical to have the Evangelization & Stewardship committee weigh in on how the reports are constructed.
    - i. **ACTION: Jim S. is to compose an example report that includes additional info.**
- 2) Linda H. provided an update about One Spirit Many Gifts.
  - a. Linda reached out to Mark D., who was requested someone to help him stay on task with campaign items. The position was allocated to Brandon D., and future updates are anticipated.

### Ministry Reports

- 1) ALPHA, Neil S. reported.
  - a. The ALPHA ministry is staffing up, and uncertainty about attendance was noted. Neil described a program shift toward a more relaxed environment, such as good conversations over a glass of wine. Neil expressed interest in having younger volunteers.
  - b. There was a brief discussion about getting the word out about ALPHA, potentially during “Grill the Priest” events.
    - i. **ACTION: If available, E&S members will help Neil S., distribute postcards at weekend masses and during Fall Fest.**
- 2) Legacy Committee, Linda H. reported.
  - a. Mark H. has stepped down as chair of the Legacy Committee, but will continue as a member. Mark Dittman. is now overseeing the committee. It was noted that rollout for proposed Legacy activity has been moved from this Fall to January 2018.
- 3) New Parishioner Welcome, Linda H. reported.
  - a. Tom S. has shared that four families now volunteer at New Parishioner Welcome and has highlighted an overall increase in new parishioner attendance and registration. Members were reminded of the recent addition of Welcome sessions after every mass and not just Sunday morning. New Parishioner Welcome occurs the second weekend of the month.

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- i. There was a brief discussion about Flock notes, and the cost of utilizing this system as being a potential obstacle for use with New Parishioner Welcome. It was noted that other groups within SJB are currently utilizing this tool.
- 4) Prayer, Jane H. reported.
  - a. The Prayer staff point person has changed; administrative changes were noted.
  - b. Jane H. called on E&S for an apprentice to help with the Prayer section in Father’s weekly email.
    - i. **ACTION: E&S members will prayerfully consider assisting Jane in writing prayers.**

### Committee Reports

- 1) Hospitality – Deacon Gary confirmed that Hospitality falls within E&S jurisdiction.
  - a. Members briefly discussed what is needed to oversee, improve, and assist with Hospitality. The group expressed wishes for direction to come from leadership in implementing changes.

### New Business

- 1) Father S. has invited E&S to pray over reaching out to newly registered parishioners.
  - a. E&S surmised that it might be more fruitful now to focus attention on engaging with new parishioners before casting our nets toward the unengaged; and highlighted the difference between “cold calling” and “hot leads.”
    - i. Flock notes was cited as a beneficial alternative to reaching out to new parishioners independently.
    - ii. There was a brief discussion whereby cautions about privacy were raised. Possible solution: to include a registration-form section that asks permission to include new parishioners in the directory and Flock notes.
  - b. Linda H. described a phone encounter with an evangelist from another faith and explained the call’s engagement and relevance to engaging new parishioners.
- 2) Advertising the upcoming parish pictorial photo sessions was cited as a potential evangelization opportunity.

### Closing Prayer

- 1) The September 2017 meeting adjourned, and Deacon Schneider closed with prayer.
  - a. **ACTION: E&S members will pray for Kate in her discernment of our commission.**

**Ministries:** New Parishioner Welcome, Legacy, ALPHA, Prayer Section in Father Skluzacek’s weekly e-mail

**Committees:** Nominating, By-Laws, Hospitality after Mass

**Future Meeting Dates:** 10/17; 11/21; 12/12; 1/23/18; 2/20; 3/20; 4/17; 5/15; 6/5