

Education MPA
Meeting Minutes for 5/27/2009

In attendance: Karen Banta, Anne Merwin, Hugh Mohler, Jennifer Myers, Rosemary Peddicord, Jane Rohd and Kelly Scheel.

Absent: Kathleen Willis

Karen Banta opened the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes from the April 22, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved (with an editorial change to correct Rosemary Peddicord's last name).

As a group, the following Vision Statement was drafted:

The Education Mission Priority Area exists to identify and meet the educational needs of all Parishoners through programs and services that foster a deeper personal relationship with Jesus and a greater understanding of and commitment to our Catholic faith.

It was decided that the committee would reflect on a Mission Statement and come prepared to work on it at our June meeting. It should incorporate the following ideas:

- Maintain existing programs
- Continually assess the educational needs of the Parish
- Effectively collaborate and communicate with others

We reviewed the draft copy of the Survey. We feel that Parishoners should receive one comprehensive survey which may encompass other MPAs. Hugh Mohler will ask at the next Pastoral Council meeting if other MPAs are planning to do surveys. The survey should be web-based as well as offered in the Sunday Bulletin for several weeks. It was noted that the questions should be phrased in a way that sets a positive tone.

Jennifer Myers will email a copy of the Survey to all members. Members are to review the Survey and email comments/suggestions back to Jennifer. Jennifer will update and bring the updated Survey to the June meeting.

Karen mentioned that Jack Buckner was joining the Staff effective 7/1/2009 to work on Evangelization and Adult Catechesis. We will ask Jack to attend our meetings. We also would like his input on the Survey.

Rosemary shared her findings on Why Catholic which is a six week program offered twice a year for four years in which 12 faith topics are explored. A program director willing to be trained by the Archdiocese is needed, as well as people to lead the small groups. There are study materials.

Questions ensued such as can you start small and build throughout the program or must one be involved from the beginning. What is the length of the meetings? Rosemary will look further into the program, but we were initially impressed with it.

Discussion of officers ensued. Karen mentioned that a Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary are needed. In addition, Karen represents the Education MPA on the Evangelization MPA and we need another representative on the Technology Committee. Since there were not any volunteers, it was suggested that we expand our committee by seeing if others would like to join.

We went through the spreadsheet to see who attended the Education break-out session at the March all Parish meeting. Names were divided up and will be contacted about their interest in joining the committee. Karen will send contact information (email/phone numbers).

Karen shared information from the draft copy of the Pastoral Council's Constitution and By-laws, including what some of our duties will be. Our role was discussed, especially with respect to the School. We agreed that we did not want to be an impediment, but saw our role as being an advocate, if needed.

Karen shared an email written to Fr. Bianco concerning RCIA. It was mentioned that some RCIA candidates were not attending mass until February as they were intimidated about going to mass alone. We discussed ways to make candidates more comfortable, such as roping off certain pews for candidates and asking for volunteers to sit with them. While certain parts of the email concerning welcoming candidates into the Parish should be addressed by the Evangelization MPA, we agreed that we should look into RCIA (it also was mentioned in the March all Parish meeting). It was suggested that we ask Shirley Davis to attend our next meeting to discuss RCIA and ways we can help.

Discussion of meeting dates and times took place. It was determined that we will opt for meeting the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. As we planned dates for the remainder of the year, it was noted that November and December meetings may need to be held the third Wednesday due to holidays. Meeting dates for the remainder of 2009 are: June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23, October 28, November 18 and December 16.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Action Items

Distribute copies of the Vision and Mission Statements developed by the Pastoral Council and Evangelization MPA for comparison.	KB
Reflect on components of our Mission Statement for June meeting.	All members
Ask at PC meeting if other MPAs will be doing surveys.	HM
Email survey to all members.	JM - done
Review survey and email comments/suggestions to Jennifer Myers.	All members
Update survey with comments and distribute at June meeting.	JM
Look further into Why Catholic program.	RP
Send contact information.	KB
Invite others to join.	RP, JR
Invite Shirley Davis to our June meeting to report on RCIA.	KB