

**SAINT AMBROSE  
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES  
DATE: 9-23-09 **DRAFT****

**Call to Order:** Dave Urbanski, President

**Prayer:** Dave Urbanski

<b>Roll Call/Visitors:</b>	<b>P/A</b>	<b>Visitors:</b>
Tim Keenan (1 <sup>st</sup> Year)	<b>P</b>	
Dave Urbanski-Secretary (3rd Year)	<b>P</b>	Ron Luther, Parishes Bus. Mgr.
Jim McCormick-School Commission	<b>P</b>	
Jeanette Burbank-Spiritual Life	<b>P</b>	
Joann/Leonard Elsner-Stewardship	<b>P</b>	
Cindy Dennis-Finance Council	<b>P</b>	
David Geis-At-Large (2nd Year)	<b>P</b>	
Deb Bedwell-At-Large (3rd Year)	<b>P</b>	
Kitty Lewis-Community Life and Service	<b>P</b>	
Scott Lanam (1 <sup>st</sup> Year)	<b>P</b>	
Mark Nowling – Faith Formation	<b>P</b>	
To be named – At Large (1 <sup>st</sup> Year)		
Ernesto Enrriquez (2 <sup>nd</sup> Year)	<b>A</b>	
Fr. Scott Nobbe – Pastor	<b>P</b>	

**Roll Call:** Per above

**Visitors:** Ron Luther, Parishes Business Manager, by invitation. Mr. Luther was asked to report on his transition into the newly established position of Parishes Business Manager and to identify key matters he is working on. Mr. Luther stated he has been in the position three months. He expects it will take approximately one year to become fully familiar with all parish activities, contracts, accounting systems and the like. He will be seeking to streamline the accounting process, review bank and investment accounts; looki at ways to integrate the entire church campus for efficiencies; evaluate internal controls and procedures and establish an approval process for major expenditures. He described as a major focus being human resource evaluation, hiring and payroll processes. In addition, he stated that information technology is under review in terms of hardware, software, service contracts, support, virus protections, software licensing process and campus-wide networking. Council thanked Mr. Luther for his report and encouraged his continued work in these areas.

**Minutes Approval:** Dave Geis offered an amendment to the minutes which incorporated a more detailed report of the Faith Formation Commission. Upon motion by Mark Nowling, seconded by Scott Lanam and unanimously carried, the amended minutes were approved.

**Pastor's Comments:** Fr. Scott emphasized in his comments the importance of the parish and all of its commissions, councils and committees continuously striving for **inclusiveness** in parish activities. Fr. Scott gave examples such as multi lingual pamphlets, announcements, the use of interpretation devices or interpreters at events. He encouraged continuous thought and action over time to bring about a greater level of inclusiveness.

### **Commission Reports:**

**School Commission:** Jim McCormick referenced the St. Ambrose School Commission minutes of their meeting held September 17, 2009. He emphasized the upcoming Guardian Angel dinner to be held on October 14<sup>th</sup> at the Pines Evergreen Room. The goal is to raise \$35,000 through ticket sales and parishioner gifts. Tickets will be sold for \$25 per person. Sr. Luke Jones, a native of Seymour and graduate of St. Ambrose School will be the keynote speaker. Another attraction for the Guardian Angel dinner will be the announcement Career Achievement Award, a recognition of an individual from the parish for their contributions to the parish and the catholic church and community at large.

Jim announced the results of the Hit n Giggle fund raiser of \$10 to \$11,000 versus a goal of \$14,000. There was discussion of the Principal, Sr. Anna Rose and the need to provide some relief and assistance to her in various ways, given the level of responsibilities she carries and her advancing age.

Jim informed the Council that Catholic Social Services provides needed service to school children on family life issues at no fee. They are requesting mileage reimbursement. There was no opposition to this request.

**Community Life & Service:** Kitty Lewis referred to her summary report and commented briefly that all ministries were in some stage of action to organize or were active in their activities.

**Spiritual Life Commission:** Jeanette Burbank reported on this commission's meeting of September 16, 2009. Forthcoming events include: Advent preparation, Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>; Procession of Faith with youth groups, November 1<sup>st</sup> and November 22<sup>nd</sup>; All Saints Day, November 1<sup>st</sup> honoring deceased members of the parish, family and friends; Our Lady of Guadalupe feast day, December ?. A report was given regarding the planned rearrangement of the church sanctuary to accommodate a better flow participant movement for the Mass.

**Faith Formation:** Mark Nowling reported on this commission's meeting held September 8, 2009. The following items were reported on: Chaste Living Education program for grades 5 and 6 to be started after Christmas; a related program for parents, called "Theology of the Body" and that such programs would be designed for all grades next year. The updated mission statement for the Faith Formation Commission is, "The mission of the Faith Formation at ST. Ambrose is to assist people toward holiness by providing lifelong experiences that lead to knowing, living and sharing the Catholic Faith". The forthcoming ministry fair was noted and this commission will participate with a handout of the mission, purpose and activities of this commission. Support was indicated for having a youth on the parish council.

The Speaker Series first presentation will be on September 24<sup>th</sup>, featuring Fr. Matthew Van Smoorenburg, speaking on the topic, "Temperaments and Children". The next program will be given by Dr. Hans Geisler on stem cells on October 21<sup>st</sup>; "Ask Fr. Scott was another program discussed. An update on activity with the "Lighthouse Ministry" was given, indicating new CD's and usage of the program. First Friday service was mentioned, noting a flier being made called "Holy Hour for Vocations".

Youth program dates were noted as being:  
Amazing Race – 9-13-09  
We Care packages – 9-16-09  
Pilgrimage to St. Meinrad – 10-25-09

**Stewardship Commission (Buildings and Grounds):** Joan Elsner reported on the following items: "Christ Our Hope, the annual Archdiocese Campaign was discussed with the goal for St. Ambrose to be \$36,000 compared with \$28,480 collected through the last campaign. The upcoming Ministry Fair was discussed with encouragement of all commissions and ministries to be represented by people and information. Joan will be speaking to the Youth Ministry and parents about stewardship for children on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Joan reported Fair Booth earnings for ST. Ambrose to be \$11,492 and for Our Lady of Providence to be \$1,123.

Buildings and Grounds committee met September 2<sup>nd</sup>. We are still waiting on a bid for parish center carpet. Brick sealing of the church is to be done yet this Fall at a cost of %7,800. An estimate for a new church bell system was \$5,700. It was determined that the Finance Council should take this expenditure under review since it is believed this was not budgeted. Continued discussion of rectory modifications is occurring. Other miscellaneous matters of a smaller nature were mentioned within the report.

**Spanish Ministry:** No report was available

**Finance Council:** Cindi Dennis reported through a review of the parish finances summary handed out to PC members. As of month end, August, 2009, parish assets totaled \$1,728,462 compared with \$2,537,401, a decrease of \$808,939. This decrease is substantially related to market conditions affecting the value of endowments held at the Archdiocese. Some recovery in value is being experienced due to improved market conditions. The parish is posting a net loss to date of \$9,157 compared with net income of \$52,117 the same time last year. This is primarily due to year to date collections being 23% below last year. This is somewhat of concern to the parish council and merits close observation in the coming months.

**Old Business:** The matter of a youth being elected or appointed to the parish council is still under review and consideration. There is general support indicated for this representation but all agreed guidelines need to be developed, such as eligibility, source of candidate (such as Leadership Team), appointed vs. elected, voting status, term, pastor involvement/approval. Deb Bedwell agreed to develop proposed guidelines. A recommendation was made and generally agreed to that if a youth candidate is to come from the Leadership Team, evidence of that group's development and solid standing should exist with the hope that a candidate could come from this group for the 2010/2011 year. It was noted the Parish Council By-Laws would need to be amended. This needs to be assessed.

It was noted the Hispanic Council continues to develop slowly, but some progress is being made.

The current opening on the parish council resulting from the resignation of Tonja Couch was discussed. Two candidates names were offered being, Don Matzner and Sharon Cook. After some discussion, motion was made by Cindy Dennis, seconded by Mark Nowling and unanimously carried to elect Sharon Koch to fill the vacancy of Tonja Couch in the At Large position for the remainder of a fist year of a three year term. Appreciation was noted for the interest and willingness

of Mr. Matzner to be a candidate and for all of his contributions to the parish, past and present.

Dashboard Items:

Vision – Our Lady of Providence has reviewed the suggested Parishes Vision Statement and has it under consideration and will report its progress or decision by next meeting.

Parish Anniversary (150<sup>th</sup>) – committee continues to meet and gaining better attendance. A theme is being sought from parishioners with the hope of determining a theme by next month.

Ministry Fair – set and planned. Will report on outcomes next meeting.

**New Business:** None

**Adjournment:** A closing prayer was lead by Dave Urbanski

Respectfully submitted by

David Geis  
Secretary