

September 5, 2024

Combined Pastoral Councils of St. Mary, Coon Valley & Annunciation BVM, Viroqua

## Minutes

### Opening Prayer

Introductions: Your name, how long you've been active in the parish, a particular interest of yours in the parish's life

- Cathy (class of '89, RE, youth ministry), Pat (lifer, music), Marlene (since marriage), Joyce ('75, PCCW, fostering collaboration), Ryan (10 years, RE, exploring growth areas), Parker (building community), Mike (15 years, community growth and fellowship), Bob (40s, lector, liturgy, men's club, getting young people involved in serving), Melanie (last few years, adult formation), Steve ('18, men's club, community involvement), Kris (formation), Sue (homebound ministry, women's group, socials)

### Strategic Discussion

- What are sources of unity you see between our parishes?
  - A shared faith & pastor
  - Thursday morning Bible study
  - Joined service schedule for pancake breakfast
  - Combined RE
  - Similar leadership and ideology
  - Shared trauma – working through it together and concurrently
    - Relief from turnover lately
  - Human resources – sharing expertise and talents
  - A level playing field between the parishes
  - Christmas program & Passion play – parishioners from both sites
- What are sources of distinction between our parishes? That's to say, what gives each parish its unique identity?
  - (V) Parish membership – a positive energy walking into our church
  - (CV) Good music in both
  - (CV) Size – small church, bringing an intimate vibe
  - (CV) reaching financial goals
  - (CV) maintaining buildings and grounds
  - (V) Aesthetics of both parishes
    - Nostalgia of CV

- Evolving vision of what our church needs
    - (V) Diversity, drawing people from different communities and ages
    - (V) Gathering space
    - (CV) People know when you're not there
    - (V) Financial solvency
    - (CV) Relationality in town
- What challenges are we going to face as we work together?
  - Discussion tabled for lack of time
- Looking ahead & Closing Prayer
  - The Councils both agree on meeting twice a year, next time in Viroqua

Closing Prayer