

ACC Agenda – December 10, 2024 7:00–8:30 pm at Sacred Heart Annunciation, Sacred Heart, St. Francis Xavier, St. Stephen One in Christ – Area Catholic Community

A. Welcome & [Prayer](#) (7:00-7:10)

1. Intro of attendees
 - Attended: Dana Howard (ALL), Jackie Popp (ANN), Bonnie Dick (Notetaker SH), Shelly Pursley (SH), Althea Heim (SFX), Lisa Koll (SS), Jason Prigge (ALL), Chad Braegelmann (SFX), Jeanne Barnaby (SH), Tom Offerdahl (SFX), Chuck Wocken (ANN)
 - Not Present: Fr. Ron Weyrens (SFX/SS), Fr. Tom Knoblach (SH/ANN), Diane Blonigen (SS), Kurt Stelton (SFX), Don Burggraff (SFX)
 - Visitors: Chuck Sychala (SS), Mike Sowada (SFX Young Adults), Alex Kramer (SS Young Adults), Chuck Hasselkamp (SFX), Ray Ley (SFX), Jan Morissette (SFX)

B. [10.08.2024 Minutes](#) Review & Approval (7:10-7:15)

1st approval Jackie Popp
2nd approval Althea Heim

C. Updates of Committee Work (7:15-7:55)

1. Discipleship (Jackie Popp)

Discipleship Committee of OiC ACC Update - 12/10/2024

Membership List

Althea Heim	3/2024	SFX, ACC
Dana Howard	2022	OiC- Communications (SH)
Diane Blonigan	2022	SS, ACC
Jackie Popp, Chair	2021	ANN, ACC
Julie Gillen	2022	SS
Mike Gillen	2022	SS
Vicki Sanborn	2021	SH
Adam Vange	7/2024	SFX
Fr. Ron & Fr. Tom		
Plus 5 additional Prayer Partners (past members)		

- In need of someone from Sacred Heart

What is the committee's purpose & goals?

We strive together as One in Christ ACC, to improve outreach and strengthen relationships in the following areas.

1. Be a disciple- learn, share, practice My Story.
2. Engage with Area Churches- good neighbors, stewardship.

3. Expand involvement and understanding in Stewardship and Evangelization.
4. Increase a sense of belonging and meaningful commitment for all parishioners that goes beyond simple membership.

Discipleship Committee, OIC ACC July 2024-2026

What is the committee currently working on, and current progress to date?

1. **Need/Request help** - To recruit 1-2 parishioners to add to our membership.
2. Asked by Tom Offerdahl at SFX to discuss and recommend to ACC: **Hallow App paid subscription** available to OIC ACC members costing \$8,000 annually & 2 year commitment.

Discipleship does not recommend an ACC contract with Hallow at this time.

- Feedback from people already using the app is favorable, however they report sporadic use (too busy, forget sometimes).
 - Cost is considered high as there are several free apps, high profile catholic speakers on YouTube videos for free,
 - A parish contract for an app intending spiritual growth, should be preceded by several months campaign to engage and establish committed participants.
 - There is easy online access to a large list of catholic faith formation free resources/apps/websites (Formed.org; LoyolaPress.com; SQPM.com). Apps or membership should be based on personal preferences or interest.
3. **Lent 2025 Start with Jesus, book by Julianna Stanz, Small Groups:** Growth in understanding & Acts of Faith, and new Friendships. Encouraging a Jubilee Pilgrimage to a neighboring parish.
 - Week 1 - My Story of Faith (Mike & Julie Gillen)
 - Week 2 - Prayer , Our Daily Bread (open)
 - Week 3 - Ten D's of Discipleship (Vicki Sanborn)
 - Week 4, 5, 6 - Start with Jesus book Reflections (Jackie Popp)

Communication draft due mid-January, to support information spread via flocknotes, bulletin, and priest Lenten letters mailed to homes.
100 purchased books will be offered to participating parishioners (supplemented by free video shorts at the meetings.)
 4. **Other tentative 2025-6 Goals under consideration:** Support Jubilee Celebrations in our Diocese; Faith on Tap event partnership; Celebrate our OIC Stewardship Volunteers (One all ACC group/year)

2. **Young Adult (Jason Prigge)**

- Mike Sowada update: Along with Jason Prigge working on becoming a new young adult ACC group. We have seen a lot more practice of young adults.
- Structure: Find a way to meet and reach our parishioners through young adult bible study, worship evenings at area churches, and praise nights.
- More young families are showing up at Praise Night.
- Mike is working on finding ways to welcome young families and children.
- Education: Theology on Draft Events which includes food, drinks, and socializing to deepen faith through social events.
- Friday, December 13th will be held the annual Christmas party with fellowship, games, and activities.
- Turkey Bowl: Football game where we partner with All Call In Christ ACC where young adults play against parishioners. We had 40 participants. This was held at St. Cloud State University at the Dome. Gratitude to the families that showed up to support or participate.
- Alex Kramer update: more regulars are staying and showing up. Employees at St. John's Administration are showing up.
- Jason Prigge update: We have hit the stride year 4 that we have met the needs of different age groups. We need more representation from St. Francis and Annunciation to get youth involved.
- Working on a strategy to get youth back to Faith Formation after confirmation.

- Mike Sowada: A lot of 18-23 who have started attending need the encouragement to continue as things change and move on. Relay to them that one constant thing to lean on as things change in your life is your church.
- Jeanne Barnaby: Noticed the gap as her sons finished their confirmation journey. How do we segway from confirmation to faith formation?
- Sacred Heart youth groups are gaining more retention with kids coming back after confirmation.
- Offering different life skills from parishioners or activities to keep them engaged and learning. Such as offering auto skills, cooking classes. But we need a commitment from people to do these.
- Tom Offerdahl: We need young people to reach out instead of always older staff. We are losing people left and right. We have to find something to fire people up. Continue to do Faith Formation on Draft. Hope it brings more people into it.
- Jason Prigge: His observation is that the Gen Z generation is interested in committing to a community.

3. **Worship (Diane Blonigen)**

- This group has not met. No notes at this time.

4. **Faith Formation (Kurt Stelten)**

Members:

Vol: Joan Krause, Lee Woods, Gary Koshiol, Kurt Stelten, Alexandra Kramer

Staff: Shirley Scapanski, Jen Kaweesa, Danna Gasperlin, Scott Frieler, Jason Prigge, Dana Howard, Sandee Kremers, Fr. Ron Weyrens, Fr. Tom Knoblock, Deacon Joe Kesky

Faith Formation Goals:

Goal: 1-2 adult faith formation events

- Held first event at Blackberry Ridge Golf Club
 - Budget: - \$138.34 (splitting costs amongst parishes).
 - Used up all the Living the promise grant money
 - We still have \$2,000 from the Bridge Builders grant to use ...
- In process of setting up the second event in March
- Working to determine location & date (Scott, Danna & Shirley)
 - Possible speaker – Fr. Jean Claude (conversion)

Goal: Develop a YoungLife Pilot chapter for our ACC by 2025,

- Jason update (Young adult update)

Goal: Create a resource listing (all parishes)

- Joan is taking the lead and will get started on the listing in January.

Other items:

· Joan mentioned that the November Central MN Catholic will reveal information about the Pastoral Planning process and results. She mentioned that change is on the horizon...

· Future topics for committee

- Parent session for baptism preparation for second and/or third child
- Initiation process for children ages 7+

· Next Meeting to be held in January: Date TBD

5. Communications (Dana Howard)

- Advent letter was sent in the mail
- Double sided Christmas bulletin: move to invite people we don't usually see.
- Redesign of the bulletin
- Starting a Lent letter

D. Pastoral Council Updates (7:55-8:10)

Sacred Heart (Fr Tom Knoblach): Fr Tom submitted update via email prior to ACC meeting

- The Sacred Heart Pastoral Council met on October 15, 2024. We concluded our faith sharing on Bishop Neary's Pastoral Letter on the Eucharist with the question: "What does it mean to glorify the Lord by your life?"
- The Council reviewed the annual Financial Report sent to the Diocese and the communication to the parish summarizing our financial year. We discussed the capital improvements completed with new AV screens, minor parking lot repairs and donated striping, and retrofit LED lighting; and the pending repairs of new carpet in the worship area and a recent failure of the fire suppression system that is under study by Breth Zenzen and our insurance company.
- We discussed our very positive Festival results, not only financially but with strong community building and hospitality outcomes. We also briefly talked about the one-man dramatic presentation on St. John Vianney on September 8.
- Jason Prigge, Scott Frieler, and Philip Shefveld updated the Council on both Young Life and the NCCL faith formation progress. The Council welcomed Laurie Kremer who has succeeded Sarah Woeste in the direction of the adult choir and bell choir.
- Finally, we briefly discussed the evangelization project planned for Spring, calling each household to maintain our contact and outreach with membership and hear their needs and concerns. Fr. Tom also mentioned the progress on diocesan planning and assured the Council that much more will be forthcoming, including opportunities for Council and parishioner input.
- The next meeting will be January 14, 2025.

Annunciation (Fr Tom Knoblach): Fr Tom submitted update via email prior to ACC meeting

- The Annunciation Pastoral Council met on November 19, 2024. Some of the agenda items are similar to Sacred Heart's, though of course for Annunciation: its Annual Report, its Finance Council report, its picnic results from September 8 (with parade!), and Jason's Young Life update.
- The Council also discussed the parish visitation ministry and ways it can be expanded, along with the joint Evangelization calling project described above. We discussed the Lenten study on *Start with Jesus* (which was not yet available at Sacred Heart's Council meeting date).
- We also discussed ways the parish's devotional life might be developed with the challenges of timing of events and busy lives, and possible Adult Education topics that could be presented at Annunciation. This was just an introduction of the ideas and Council members were asked to reflect on them and consult with their peers for future discussion on possibilities.
- The next meeting will be February 18, 2025.

St. Francis Xavier (Fr Ron Weyrens) - Tom Offerdahl provided update in Fr Ron's absence

- Overflow from the homeless shelter in the next 2 weeks.
- These are the chronically homeless likely some drug users. Many go to hospital from frostbite
- Limit exposure to staff

St. Stephen (Fr Ron Weyrens) - Lisa Koll provided update in Fr Ron's absence

- Still looking for boiler maintenance worker
- Parish Hall Kitchen
- Being discussed a new funeral system instead of 4 teams rotating to serve at funerals
- Jim the trustee has been doing it for 22 years and now we are looking for a replacement
- Saturday, December 14th: Reconciliation retreat to be held at St. Stephan

E. Misc. (8:10-8:30)

1. Discuss annual committee gathering event

- Hold for next meeting and talk about when Kurt Stelton is back

2. Review [ACC Council Member Listing](#): Who's terms expire end of year?

- Tom Offerdahl, Diane Blonigen, and Chuck Wocken
- Also need to find replacements for Worship and Annunciation pastoral council
- Bring back to priests and they can communicate to fill positions

3. Next Meeting Tuesday, February 11th, at St Stephen.

H. Closing [Prayer](#) (8:30)

Opening Prayer

O God of Life,
we seek your guidance
as we face the reality
of transition and change.

Transition is a challenge and can be exciting
as we try to move with foresight into the future.

Change is a challenge to let go.

It takes courage and confidence to move toward a new goal.

Loving God,
give us open minds, kind hearts and clear vision
as together we look to a future in which we can still serve You.
Help us to plan with a "big picture" mentality
to seek diligently and generously
what is in the best interest of all.

May Jesus, our Shepherd and Guide,
lead us in ways that are right and good.

May Mary, Mother of our Church,
encourage our efforts
to listen and learn.

In the words of the prophet Micah,
may we "act justly, love tenderly
and walk humbly with our God."

Amen.

Closing Prayer

O Spirit of God,
we ask you to help orient all our actions
by your inspirations,
carry them on by your gracious assistance,
that every prayer and work of ours
may always begin from you
and through you be happily ended.

Amen.