

ACC Minutes – February 11, 2025
7:00–8:30 pm at St. Stephen
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

- Fr. Ron Weyrens (SFX/SS), Fr. Tom Knoblach (SH/ANN), Althea Heim (SFX), Lisa Koll (SS), Jason Prigge (ALL), Chad Braegelmann (SFX), Tom Offerdahl (SFX), Chuck Wocken (ANN), Jackie Popp (ANN), Anita Stoering (SH), Don Burggraff (SFX), Bonnie Dick (SH), Shelly Pursley (SH), Kurt Stelten (SFX), Dana Howard (ALL)

- Not Present: Diane Blonigen (SS), Jeanne Barnaby (SH), Adam Vange (SFX)

- Visitors: Carol Hellmann (SS), Will Hellmann (SS), Jim Schumer (SS), Shari Selensky (SS Parish Council), Chuck Spsychala (SS), Al Robles (SH-Young Adult)

B. [12.10.2024 Minutes](#) Review & Approval (7:10-7:15)

- Kurt Stelten 1st motion
- Chuck Wocken approved it

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

1. **Discipleship (Jackie Popp)**

Are you giving something up during Lent, like last year? How about gaining something more this year?

How about spending 90 minutes to Walk with Jesus? Joining with your neighbors and friends. It's an opportunity to move a baby step in your faith life journey, by spending some time talking about topics from the book by Julianna Stanz, [Start with Jesus](#).

Attend one of our One in Christ parishes for Sunday Mass, followed by brunch, a video, and conversations. Topics change each week with the location moving across our four parishes. Start times will vary based on the time of Mass at each hosting parish. We begin March 9th at 10:30 am following Sunday Mass at Sacred Heart. The following Sunday, March 16th is at 11:15 am hosted at St. Stephen. So check your church bulletin for the change in topic, time and location. Brunch is included.

Topics are based on the book Start with Jesus. Books are available at your parish office. A free-will offering would be appreciated. If you don't enjoy book reading, come anyway. We start the session with a video or a handout made available at the sessions. The chapter sessions also include a Jubilee Pilgrimage and parish moment. Just come. Bring a friend. No signup. **Thank you!**

Mar. 9, 10:30 am at Sacred Heart following Sunday Mass. **Topic: "10 D's of Discipleship"**, sponsored by our One in Christ ACC. Let's Talk Disciples! During Lent, can we take 90 minutes to listen and learn from one another, across all generations? We will begin with brunch. Vicki Sanborn leads this session.

***Mar. 16 at 11:15 am, at St. Stephen:** Topic: [Start with Jesus](#). **Chapters 3&4.** What is discipleship? How and when am I a disciple? Jackie Popp leads the book chapter sessions.

***Mar. 23 at 10:45 am, at St. Francis Xavier: Chapters 5&6.** Why do people leave the church? What's the value of church to my life?

***Mar. 30 at 9:15 am at Annunciation: Chapters 7&8.** How best do I listen to my friend's questions? Is there a helpful way to think through the natural stages of faith, skeptic to disciple?

Apr. 6, 11:15 am after Sunday Mass at St. Stephens: "My Story", Easy to share your favorite concert experience with family and friends, but wondering how to share a great faith moment? This session will be lead by Mike and Julie Gillen.

ACC Points

Discipleship Committee- Our 2025 “Big Goal” is simply to improve outreach and strengthen relationships. This is why we are focused to the topics you see listed for each of the Sundays of Lent.

S.M.A.R.T Goals are what you as ACC expect of us. **Measurement** (the M) being the most challenging. Our measurement plan for each event, includes 4 points of measure:

1. # expected to participate - pre-event, includes 4 points of measure:
2. # actual number of participants (including home parish info-% from another parish)
3. # first time participants
4. Appreciative & constructive feedback
5. Photo of each group-to support a future possible article in our quarterly OiC news.

Jubilee Pilgrimage of Hope experience is included for each of the 3 book chapter topic sessions. Each week of 2025 in Rome, the **Holy Father is on pilgrimage, crossing a Holy Church Threshold**, offering prayers for a group of people to heal and affirm them.

- Participants will gather in the sanctuary following Mass. All have crossed a holy door, a threshold entering into the presence of Christ. It will have been done intentionally.
- We will take a few moments to lift up in prayer, those in our lives who suffer in need of healing, as well as those in need of charity.
- We will also hear a parish story of history, in tradition or a memorial of the heart of the parish. This is why each of the chapter sessions is hosted at a different One in Christ Parish.

2. Young Adult (Jason Prigge & Al Robles)

- December Praise Night was at Mexican Village. We are out growing small venues so looking for bigger spaces. Ultimate bar will host the next event. Noreen Hershfeld will be the speaker to talk about Al.
- February there will be Draft night, Festival of Families and Adult Ministry
- Kurt Stelton asked how wild life went. Bishop Patrick wanted us to pilot. 120 middle schoolers attended. This was a challenge for space.
- WildLife speaker Joe Schulte was the 1st speaker on “Hope”.
- Planning for the 3rd Wednesday of each month for WildLife at YMCA. Pilot runs through May. Working on getting leaders trained, shaping the committee and funding.
- Bishop is coming in April for Theology on Draft at Great River Bowl.
- Gearing up for Summer Events

3. Worship (Diane Blonigen)

- Did not meet. No Update.

4. Faith Formation (Kurt Stelton)

Summary of the Faith Formation Committee meeting on Jan 14th

Diocesan Planning Process:

- Joan provided an update
 - Sub-committee's are organized and active
 - Working on a guide for the ACC moving forward – breakdown by each parish
 - Guidelines will be finalized by the end of February and shared with ACC and each parish.
 - Looking at One Centralized Office for ACC
 - Building Occupancy
 - 50% occupancy on Sunday services
 - Physical accessibility

- One paster per ACC (with additional support TBD)
 - Limit priests to three masses per weekend
 - Father Tom said that some of these parameters have evolved and changed.
 - Each Deanery will have each ACC meet and guide us through the parameters. Uncertain if one pastor for each diocese/parish. Need to relieve the Admin burden on our priests. Maybe retired priests could help with the ACC's.
 - Sandy and Melissa held a meeting with parents at SFX (over 150 families attended). A new format for faith formation will begin Oct 2025. Families will choose one Wednesday a month to share the experience as a family. Families will go through set stations and enjoy a meal during each faith formation experience.
- Finances
 - Discussing a 10% fundraising limit in support of annual budget.
- Joan confirmed that Julie Bruns (SFX) will join our Faith Formation Committee
- Bulletin changes – Joan will work with Dana.
- Scott & Faith Formation sub committee
 - Next event planned for March 22nd
 - Held at Bad Habit in St. Joseph (6:30 – 9:00 pm)
 - Presenter is Father Jean-Claude Duncan
 - We can bring in our own food (Soup with other snacks)
 - We will use Bridge Builders funding for event expenses
 - Committee plans to have another event sometime this summer – TBD
 - Scott shared a draft flyer and will be working with the subcommittee on preparation for the event.
 - Similar format as we did in October at BlackBerry Ridge Golf Club.
- Parents and Families at the center of Faith Formation
 - Scott provided an update
 - 28 Dioceses are involved
 - Workshop held in Staples (January)
 - Shared a handout regarding the Workshop
 - Target May to share with parishes
 - St. Francis new format in 2025.
 - Look for upcoming events in February bulletin.
 - Next meeting is March 25th at Mayhew lake

5. Communications (Dana Howard)

- Joan has a list of upcoming events for Faith Formation. This will be sent in a flyer labeled, “One in Christ ACC Adult Faith Formation Opportunities.”
- The January Newsletter talked about the mission trip. Bulletin was long because of this.
- Newsletter also talked about WildLife.
- The Lenten letter will go out at the end of the month.
- Putting together a redesign on the bulletin. A sample will be given to the ACC council to look at and give suggestions on the layout.

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

1. Annunciation (Fr Tom Knoblach)

- Will be meeting on February 18th
- Jubilee year of Hope. Getting ideas from the Council to suggest ideas for the pilgrimage. Some ideas were:
 - The Shrine in Lacrosse WI
 - Going to other Cathedrals in a 3 state area.
 - Eucharistic revival mission in Alaska providing a tabernacle.
- Need ideas for outreach and Faith Formation..

2. Sacred Heart (Fr Tom Knoblach)

- Met on January 14th on the planning process for the agendas.

- Discussed the same items that are listed under Annunciation.

3. St. Francis Xavier (Fr Ron Weyrens)

- Discussing ways to raise money to fill parking lot potholes.

4. St. Stephen (Fr Ron Weyrens)

- Betty Pogatshnik's retirement from The Church Steeple.
- Changing to a rotating schedule for funerals.
- Church boiler.

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

1. Discuss annual committee gathering event

- A once a year gathering with everyone from all committees.
- Where will this be held? Need space for about 50 to 60 people.
- What to talk about....Each committee can meet and put together a model to present about what they are doing. Maybe the same model that was used to present to the Bishop.
- Aim for Sept/Oct time frame.
- Spouses come also.
- Jason Prigge suggested getting a date on the calendar and a neutral place.

2. ACC Women's Retreat

- Brittany Prigge emailed Shelly Pursley asking for permission to form a Women's Retreat.
- Fr. Tom suggested to make sure this doesn't conflict with the ACW (Christian Women Group).
- Suggest to Brittany to reach out to others for assistance.
- ACC Council was in favor of this idea.
- Shelly Pursley will get in contact with Brittany to let her know she can move forward with this idea.

3. Review [ACC Council Member Listing](#): Discuss who's replacing the members who's terms ended 12/31/2024.

- Shelly has a copy of all members and their term life on the council.
- Adam Vange will be replacing Tom Offerdahl at St Francis Xavier.
- Chuck Wocken at Annunciation: Will need to find a replacement for Chuck.
- Diane Blonigen at St Stephen: Lisa Koll will get in contact with Diane to ask her to call Shelly Pursley & let Shelly know if she will be renewing her term on the ACC Council..

4. Next Meeting Tuesday, April 8th, at Annunciation

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.