

St. Mary's of the Hills Education Commission Minutes, 11-21-2015

PRESENT: Samantha Guerra, Dennis Naeger, Meghan Schuler, Suzie Phillips, Tom Wietchy, Kim Boismier, Clem Valot, Mary Davis, Fr. Stan, and Peggy Casing.

ABSENT: Jennifer Neal.

1. Chairperson Samantha passed out an Agenda with 3 Points: #1.) Answering SWOC self study questions; #2.) Filling out a Skills Inventory; #3.) The Education Commission's Mission Statement (Vote: need to be updated or keep the same?).
2. Peggy began addressing the Agenda looking at #1 of the Self Study questions saying that she had a copy of a 2007 Mission Statement. It seemed to cover the basics of what we are doing today. Tom had earlier asked if Janet had updated that Mission Statement in the last few years. Peggy said that she looked through her paperwork and did not see an updated Mission Statement, but uncovered a document that the Commission recently worked on. It summarized the goals and work of the Education Commission. Peggy will forward a copy of that to commission members for their review. In regards to item #2 fulfilling our mission, members thought that "we need to advertise" our work, especially on social media: Facebook, twitter, and instagram. Kim brought up the fact that it is difficult to get some of her Agape messages posted to St. Mary's Facebook page. She was wondering if there were ways for someone to post items without having administrative rights to the page. A discussion began about who controls access to the parish Facebook. It was decided that the Education Commission needs to check with Chris Kozlowski about how there can be access to that website. The Group then went on to #3 Assessing Leadership. The group found that the Education Commission now has a more diverse membership since it has sought out to include different age group members to reflect our customers whom we are trying to reach. We then touched on item #4 Attracting New Members-- there could be various ways of introducing new parishioners to the different commissions at a new membership orientation where new members might be introduced to what is going on at St. Mary's. The higher the level of that effort to spend time with the newer members would require a greater commitment on the part of St. Mary's, even to the point of having a separate support staff to follow those people as they come into our Parish. But this requires commitment by some group to inform the new parishioners and do a follow up as to what else might they want to know about the Parish. As far as #5 Membership Training there are in house programs sponsored by Peggy and her staff, Archdiocesan training and inter parish programs offered to educate our parishioners. Moving on to items #6 and #7, the Education Commission could always use new members and is open to that, but fortunately the Education Commission might be in a better place than other commissions (Fellowship and Stewardship) as far as good membership--but always welcomes new members. As far as item #8 asking what help can the organization use, the group felt that there was a need to help the Education Commission facilitate communication between us and the people within the parish with whom we are trying to serve. While Father Stan was visiting, he went over the fact that there are three

means of communicating with parishioners: (1) the Bulletin with Judy Rhoads, (2) the Webpage with Jennifer Stembridge, and (3) Multimedia (Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook). The group felt that with Multimedia, there should be communication with Chris Kozlowski and Chris Drouin to develop a social media strategy—even if there needs to be a staff person responsible to copy some data and help post it to the appropriate site. Kim was going to approach Chris Kozlowski to state our concerns and report back to the education commission with her findings. The website for social media access is: socialmedia@smoth.org .

3. Samantha then briefly went over the “Skills Inventory.” It still is not clear if the Education Commission has agreed that our present mission statement is adequate, or that it needs to be revisited and changed. Has a decision been made, or will that be the subject of more discussion at our next meeting?

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Wietchy