

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

St. Basil's Church – December 1, 2025

Attendance

The following were present at the meeting: Father Adolphus, Peter Veselovsky, Lindsay Moore-Chung, Jean-Paul Ruszkowski, Jennifer Leddy and Greg Mathieu.

Regrets: Susan Fekete

Opening Activities

Greg Mathieu welcomed all to the meeting and then led the opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the November 3, 2025 meeting which had been previously distributed in draft form were brought forward for approval. There were two corrections made to the draft minutes.

MOTION: That the Minutes of the November 3, 2025 meeting of the Pastoral Council be approved.

Moved by: Jean-Paul Ruszkowski Seconded by: Jennifer Leddy
Approved

Business Arising from the Minutes – The Chair will forward them to Judy Young who will see to their posting on the website and provided to the parish office administration.

Finance Council Budget Process Update

The Finance Council met on November 18, 2025 to review the various areas of the proposed operating budget of the parish for the 2026 calendar year. An initial draft detailing each area of revenue and expenditure was reviewed line by line with the historical data and / or new information on the various items also provided.

It was helpful for the Finance Council to have the planning information from the parish's ministries, committees and groups to support the budget requests being made by each.

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The goal of the Finance Council is to present a balanced budget to Father Adolphus for his approval and subsequent submission to the diocese who have final approval.

It was noted that the ongoing repair and maintenance of the church, rectory and property premises has a limited annual budget whereas large scale replacement and repair falls is to be handled through the Under One Roof campaign.

While work is continuing towards the balanced budget, the final decision on the budget to be submitted will be made on December 18th at the final meeting of this year for the Finance Council.

Pastoral Council Bulletin Listing

The listing of the names and email addresses of the Council members was only partially completed as of the November 23, 2025 edition. The office has been asked to update the listing as soon as possible with the printing company. Apparently this will take an additional two editions before it is fully completed.

Parish Vitality Ministry

Jennifer reported that the parish website would be changing its host service provider due to cost considerations. The webmaster has found a Canadian company that will host our site for a lesser cost with a two-year commitment to that provider.

As a separate issue, she noted that there were some areas on the Pastoral Council area of the website that were dated or needed further attention. The first request to the webmaster will be to correct the meeting information. It was felt that additional revision to the Pastoral Council portion of the website would not be undertaken at this time.

Liturgy Ministry

Lindsay had no specific issues or concerns to raise on behalf of the ministry or the committees and groups within it.

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Faith Formation Ministry

The discussion in this area focused on the priority item of securing a competent and effective Youth / Evangelization Part Time Coordinator. The DRAFT position description was reviewed by council members and several points were brought forward for integration into the final version. Once this is finalized, and the requisite budget approved by the Finance Council, a job posting and recruitment plan can be implemented before the end of December.

There were a few areas of concern that were resolved including whether to provide a minimum age in the job posting. It was felt that it would be more appropriate to deal with this by asking for experience working with youth and a level of post-secondary education (university, college). A recommendation on the hourly wage was also adopted.

Ensuring that the contract included a probationary period and seeking advice from the Diocesan administration on the form of the contract was included in the action to be taken. The diocese input to the process and support for the job posting when it is completed will be requested by the council's chair.

Outreach Ministry

Jean-Paul stated that the Social Justice Committee would be meeting this week to determine the beneficiaries of the Trust Fund that they administer. It is expected that up to \$12,000 will be allocated to the areas of support chosen by the committee.

He also noted that he has witnessed an increased aggressiveness in behaviour on behalf of certain parishioners towards others including our newly appointed parish priest. Given that we include that we strive to be a welcoming community of Christian believers in our Mission Statement, he is concerned that some are not acting in an appropriate manner and it can have a negative impact on how the parish is viewed. Words used and actions taken can have negative consequences. We want to encourage respectful dialogue that strives to improve the environment for worship and community.

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Other Business

- a.) Conversations for our Times – The group has asked that they be listed on the front page of the Bulletin with contact information under the Faith Formation Ministry. The Pastoral Council agrees to this request and will do the necessary follow-up with the CFOT representatives.
- b.) Women in the Church Ministry: The Chair of the Pastoral Council was copied on an email from a parishioner. After discussion on the email the Council concluded that the Chair should acknowledge receipt of the email and direct the parishioner to the Women in the Church Steering Committee that is working with Father Adolphus and representatives of the diocese on the protocol for and evaluation of the Reflections.
- c.) Father Adolphus presented a couple of pieces of gear that had been provided from the diocese related to the Go Out – Go Deep – Go Together mission. He noted that this gear would be available for purchase from the diocese and that they might be able to add St. Basils identification to the gear. A sample package has been left with the parish for further review.

The meeting concluded with Father Adolphus leading the closing prayer.

NEXT MEETING: January 12, 2026