

University Parish of Christ Sun of Justice
Pastoral Council Meeting
Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Present: Andrew Hill, Margaret Leathem, Vivien McNaughton, Rosanne Rose, Bill Webster, Rendell Torres, Fr. Ed Kacerguis, Martha Walsh, Robin Chin, Sue Gutmann

Absent: Leah Smith

Purpose of the Meeting:

This special meeting of the Pastoral Council was held to consider questions relating to Council membership.

Faith Formation

The meeting began with a reflection on discernment and prayer.

Questions Considered

What action, if any, should be taken when a member of the Council resigns, or otherwise terminates his/her participation, prior to the end of the normal term of office?

What role should the President of the Rensselaer Newman Fellowship have in the Pastoral Council?

Can the desired actions be accomplished within the existing By-Laws, or will we need to consider amending them?

Discussion

The following points were raised during the discussion:

The existing bylaws call for a membership of 12 on the council.

On other committees on which some members have served there has been a call at the end of each year to see if members who have

unexpired terms still want to continue to serve. Perhaps we should do this as well at the end of each year.

It's important that vacancies be addressed in the bylaws so that we will know what to do in the future.

A question was raised about whether we want to go through the same discernment process, with a facilitator, as we had when the council was initially formed.

When a vacancy occurs, a person should be selected to temporarily fill the vacancy until the discernment process in the spring. The person chosen should be someone who might be willing to serve longer if selected in the spring. He or she also should be aware and comfortable with the fact that their term may be of a short duration.

The question of having a member of the Newman Fellowship as a de facto member of the Council was not previously addressed in the bylaws. The problem is that the President of Newman Fellowship changes each year in December. Since the President of the Newman Fellowship changes each year in December, the term of the de facto member could run for one year and begin in December after the election of officers.

We could address this issue in the same manner as the Rensselaer Newman Foundation. The President of RPI is a de facto member of the foundation. One past President chose to delegate this function to someone else and the bylaws of the Rensselaer Newman Foundation were adjusted accordingly. In a similar manner the Newman Fellowship could have either the President or someone designated by he or she represent them on the council.

With the process for amending the bylaws, the earliest we can change them is in October.

Consensus

Members of the Council reached consensus on the following:

Vacancies should be filled as soon as possible with someone appointed by the Chair to serve until the next period of discernment in the spring. To temporarily fill these vacancies, the Chair needs to propose two or three names to the Council for discernment.

At the time of discernment in the spring someone will be chosen to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term.

The Council vacancy left by Nick will be redefined as the slot for the President or designee of the Rensselaer Newman Fellowship. The term will run for one year and coincide with the term of the President of the Rensselaer Newman Fellowship.

Changes to the ByLaws

A council vacancy will be filled temporarily at the discretion of the Chair with prayerful discernment of the Council Members.

The President of the Rensselaer Newman Fellowship or their designee will be a de facto member of the council. Their term will run for one year and coincide with the term of the President of the Rensselaer Newman Fellowship.