

Pastoral Council Meeting
September 9, 2026

Minutes

Present: Fr. Victor Kynam, Mary Lou Hall (Chair), Jim Hulst, Lisa O'Connell, Tom Healy, Bernie Bowhuis, John Pitsch, David Byrne (recording)

Absent: Dorothy Rabourn, Elaine VanderBaan, Francisco Henriquez

We will take a group photo at the October 14th meeting for the HRP Pastoral Council Website

Documents Reviewed at this meeting:

- *Holy Redeemer Parish Pastoral Council Charter*, 2026
- *Consensus, A Process of Group Thinking*, p. 40- 42 (Handbook, Guidelines for Pastoral and Finance Councils, 1992, most current handbook per Grand Rapids Diocese, August 3, 2026)
- *Sample Situation, How Consensus Works*, p.43 (Handbook, Guidelines for Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils, 1992, most current handbook per Grand Rapids Diocese, August 3, 2026)

1) Opening Prayer

- a) Holy Spirit Prayer (Group)
- b) Lectio Divina (**Scripture Meditation** 8-10 minutes)

Reference: *Parish Pastoral Council Formation Sessions*, Tammy Graves, February 11, 2026

2) **Father Victor Agenda Items**

- a) Vote for Pastoral Council chair - Should be done by December - Vote will be at October 14 meeting. Mary Lou, Jim, Lisa, & John are eligible.
- b) Lisa questioned the time frame - The council will work from October to May schedule for new members, outgoing members & Chairperson - 2 years in May. Fr. suggested a 2-year term retroactive to May 2026.
- c) Does Francisco need to be replaced with his new job? His term has more than 6 months remaining. First choice was person who was not selected at the mass.

3) **Approve Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2026**

- a) Lisa motioned and Jim seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

4) **Discussion Item - Consensus**

- a) Consensus
 - i) What is it? (Holy Redeemer Pastoral Council Charter)
 - ii) Three-legged stool per charter (Prayer, Discernment, Consensus)
 - iii) Consensus A Process of Group Thinking (Diocesan Handbook, p. 40-42)
 - iv) Sample Situation: How Consensus Works (Diocesan Handbook, p. 43-44)
- (1) Process
 - (a) Investigate (Is there a need? Will this lead more souls closer to Christ, etc.)
 - (b) Reflect (Prayer, Pros/Cons, cost, future impact to parish, candid and transparent discussion)

- (c) Make a recommendation to Pastor (Consensus)
- v) Discussion of Consensus
 - (1) John asked if council members can bring an issue up at the meeting without providing advanced notice to prepare. This council felt this is acceptable, but the charter indicates giving council members prior notice is proper.
 - (2) The council reviewed the charter section and examples on consensus.
 - (3) Mary Lou noted all councils need to work together.
 - (4) Lisa asked about Pastoral Council & Finance Council meeting together, as the role of the two councils is to work together. Separate meetings outside of regularly-scheduled council meetings can be scheduled.
 - (5) Jim noted that minor items would not require consultation with the finance council.

5) Action Items

- a) Meeting Minutes for Website - David will provide to Sally Bosch for posting
 - b) Name Tags - Lisa O'Connell Updated and provided nametags
 - i) Ministry and Council Email addresses are no longer listed in the Bulletin
 - (1) Are these email addresses no longer valid?
 - (2) How will parishioners contact the councils?
- Ministry and council emails are back in the bulletin as of Sep. 13.**
- c) Meeting Minutes VS Meeting Minutes AI
 - i) One or the other or both? Bernie's Zox tool worked very well but is expensive - David to produce minutes as normal and possibly use AI as a backup, if needed. The council agreed this was OK.

6) Report Items

- a) Electronic Bulletin Boards - Bernie Bowhuis Update - Yodek works w/65000 churches for electronic bulletin boards w/limited access. Add Firesticks to add to Shepherds Hall TVs. Sally or another staff person could set it up to limit access. The Stewardship committee had suggested 4 years ago. Yodek - \$8/month Firesticks - \$100 per year.
 - i) No Sound, but Photos, Scripture - need parameters for what councils on what to add and when?
 - ii) How do we get started? Sally can add council info to the TVs. The system will be the same as Flocknote & cast to the TVs for no cost.
- b) Safety and Security Committee Update
 - i) Jim Hulst and John Pitsch -
 - (1) Meeting Schedule - committee meets on the 3rd Monday of the month. Next meeting is Sep. 21.
 - (2) Handbook - the goal for Sep. 21 meeting is to complete the handbook for presentation to the Pastoral Council in October. I

- (3) Chair/Co-Chair. Steve O'Connell has offered to chair the meetings as a non-member. Every 3rd Monday schedule may have to change to accommodate Steve as Chair.
 - (4) Budget - Mary Lou asked about the budget. There is none yet. The team is trying to operate as 100% volunteer.
 - (5) Panic button is ready for Fr. Victor. He will talk to the Safety committee about the additional locations.
- ii) Add Safety/Security Committee to the October Agenda for report out?

7) New Comments

Parishioner concerns - A parishioner contacted the parish with concerns that the Flocknote had too much information and was repetitive. The parishioner wanted faith-based, faith-sharing information and less activity information. Father agreed and asked if we could have more faith-based information. Bernie claimed TVs should be a QR code for those looking for more information.

Oct. 10 - Bishop Walkowiak will be at Holy Redeemer to install Fr. Victor as pastor at the 4:30 mass.

8) Review Calendar

- a) Leadership Get Together-Sunday, October 4, at 6:00 pm at HRP - CANCELLED

9) Topics for Future Meetings

- a) Invite Faith Formation Directors for Updates (Marija Bilic and Amy Fleck)
- b) Items A-E in our Pastoral Council Charter
- c) Conduct a SWOT Analysis
- d) Parish Survey
- e) Recommend goals and objectives for the Parish
- f) Short-term goals
- g) Long-term goals

10) Closing Prayer: The Prayer to St. Michael

Next Meeting is Wednesday, October 14, in the Fireplace room after the 6:30 pm Mass.