

**Diocese of Kansas City – St. Joseph
Southwest Pod Joint Task Committee
2nd Meeting Summary – Sunday, May 3, 2009**

Opening Prayer:

Stephanie Axe opened the meeting at 5:05 PM with a prayer.

Clarifying the Objective:

The team discussed the scope of our task and the approach that should be taken in preparing the recommendation to Bishop Finn in September. The following objective statement was drafted to focus and align our efforts:

“Utilize true stewardship to meet the long-term funding needs of our Catholic parishes and the school ministries within the southwest pod.”

The Proposal:

We also discussed that our recommendation/proposal should:

- A. Acknowledge that change must occur to adequately fund our schools for the long-term (i.e. keeping up with x% increase in expenses each year).
- B. Provide a multi-year economic model that compares/contrasts the financial outlook under three different approaches:
 - Current model (tithing – verified or not verified)
 - Meitler’s recommendation (cost-based tuition)
 - Stewardship-based model
- C. Identify necessary and practical changes needed to advance our current tithing approach to one of stewardship. These practices or solutions should:
 - Address the bishop’s stated expectations/concerns - including abiding by current tax regulations (and/or appropriate case law).
 - Account for the differences in each parish (inherent strengths and weaknesses), but align each parish with consistent implementation.
 - Leverage the best practices (or avoid failed practices) that have been put in place at each parish (i.e. we liked the ‘benchmark’ concept in support of strong, fact-based communications)
 - Articulate new ideas to replace current accountability practices (i.e. verification) and promote true stewardship (i.e. ‘stewardship advocates/coaches’ who meet with a sample of parishioners in their homes, etc...).

- D. Consider an appropriate transition period with a short-term stop gap funding effort (i.e. ask parishioners for 8% tithe, special campaign, etc..??) to allow adequate time to evolve to a true stewardship model.

The Process:

The committee will 'divide and conquer' by breaking out into two working groups in our next meeting. They are as follows:

- Finance (Mike Chalmers, Bob Healy, Paul Blanck and Finance Mgrs)
- Stewardship Solution (Everyone else)

After the next meeting, we will meet every other Thursday at 7:00 PM, as needed. A more specific timeline that leads up to the recommendation will be discussed in the next meeting

Next Steps:

- The group will meet at least once each month through September to prepare the alternative recommendation. **The next meeting will be held Sunday, May 17th, at Visitation's Tighe Hall at 7:00 PM.**
- Each member will ensure that information is consistently shared with the communities. Various parish-specific communication mediums (bulletins, newsletters, email, special meetings, etc...) will be used to distribute this information in a timely manner.
- Each parish business manager will follow-up and submit the remaining data variables to Mike. Mike will forward compiled data to the team to provide a sense of the numbers and then begin working on the financial model.
- Mike will scan and send electronic copies of the materials shared by the Wichita Diocese.

Closing:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.