

**Come To The Water ACC Pastoral Council Meeting
Held at the Church of Saint Mary
September 21, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.**

Present: Father Matthew Kuhn, Father Dave Petron, Brenda Kresky, Kristi Bivens, Sean Gay, Gary Haavig, Margaret Zidon, Darcie Boogaard, Bob Kulzer, Tonya Marthaler, Mary Gorghuber, Randy Kinney, Jerry Kostreba, Jodi Rehovsky, Janet Schiltgen, Rita Winters, and Carol Gaffaney.

The meeting was opened with prayer.

Kristi Bivens, Associate Director of Lay Leadership Formation for the Diocese of St. Cloud, and Brenda Kresky, Director of Pastoral Planning for the Diocese of St. Cloud, introduced themselves and their role at the meeting this evening. Kristi shared and explained the following handouts:

- 2021 Regional Ministry Gatherings
- Diocesan Ministry Day, October 23, 2021, St. John's Abbey & University
- Papal Synod Process
- Diocese of St. Cloud pamphlet
- Staying Connected with the Catholic Community and the Diocese of St. Cloud
- Area Catholic Community Diocesan Care Teams
- Bridge Builders for a Thriving Mission
- National Eucharistic Revival – Starting June 2022

Kristi shared a reading from Revelation 21:1-8 and led the group in reflection; she asked members of the pastoral council to reflect on what God is trying to say to them. As part of this reflection, those present introduced themselves and their parish affiliation. Discussion followed on building new communities, what is essential, and acknowledging the loss of “the way our parishes operated before and moving to a new arrangement,” due to the change to Area Catholic Communities in the diocese. Kristi noted that “Every new beginning brings with it an ending.”

Brenda Kresky reviewed the preamble of the Constitution for the Come To The Water Area Catholic Community Pastoral Council:

“We, the members of the Come to the Water Area Catholic Community (CWACC) [The Church of St. Mary (Alexandria, MN), Immaculate Conception Catholic Church (Osakis, MN), St. Nicholas Catholic Church (Belle River, MN)], recognize that **we are called to union with God**, not merely as individuals but **as a holy People of God**, the Church. **We accept our common responsibility** for the mission of our Lord Jesus Christ, **to evangelize and make disciples. To proclaim our unity of mind and purpose and to perform our responsibilities more effectively to God and neighbor**, we hereby join together and form an Area Catholic Community Pastoral Council.”

Next Meeting:

Father Dave will provide a list of members and their email address for the Church of the Immaculate Conception and St. Nicholas Church. An email with the minutes of this meeting and a reminder of the next meeting will then be sent to all members. The next meeting was scheduled for **Tuesday, October 19, 6:30 p.m. at Saint Nicholas Church**. The agenda will include: electing officers, approving bylaws and developing a mission statement.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. with a closing prayer.

Carol Gaffaney
Recording Secretary