



## MULTIPARISH COOPERATIVE SERVICE GROUP

*They sowed fields and planted vineyards that yielded a fruitful harvest  
Psalm 107*

Minutes for MPC Meeting  
February 3, 2006

Present: Rev. Tim Kidney (Dean)(SJV), Rev. Steve Brown (SMG), Rev. Jack Greer (FW), Rev. William Minkle, OFM (OLG), Rev. Clair Orso, CS (HC), Rev. Eddie Samaniego, SJ (MHT), Bro. Jim Sanders, SJ (MHT), Msgr. John Sandersfeld (SFOA), Jim Degnan (SFOA), Nelia Espino (OLG), Victor Espinosa (SMG) Joe Swyt (SFOA)

Absent: Rev. Robert Brocato (CTK)

Information: Theresa Bui, Sr. Katherine Dang, Gloria Espinosa, Rev. Renee Juarez, Ginny Hinkle, Jan Karpowicz, Charles Muscat, Rev. Peter Phan, Idalia Wilbanks,

**Reminder: Next meeting will be at Our Lady Of Guadalupe will be on Friday, March 17 from 10:30 AM to Noon. Lunch will follow.**

The meeting was called to order by Tim Kidney.  
Four decisions were required by the end of the meeting.

1. Should the Coop continue?
2. Should we hire a IT person to replace Ron Mitchell?
3. How should we manage the Dell leases? The leases are almost at their end.
4. Should we continue the Youth Ministry Internship program?

Continue the Coop:

After much discussion, the group reached consensus that the Coop should be continued for the next 16 months. Pastors from Most Holy Trinity, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Saint Maria Goretti, St. John Vianney, St. Francis of Assisi agreed to continue in the Coop and pay full fees of \$500.00 per month to support the administration of the program. Pastors from Holy Cross and Five Wounds declined to join. (2/27/05 Note: Fr. Clair Orso will make a decision for Holy Cross in March.)

**Action: Tim Kidney will contact Fr. Brocato for his commitment. (2/27/06: Fr. Brocato has committed.)**

The basis for the decision to continue the Coop was:

1. The Coop advances the Pastoral Plan by unifying the deanery to make collaborative decisions.
2. The Coop provides the structure for parish support: centralized IT and computers, Youth Ministry Internship programs, Ministry Formation Programs, Social Justice

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Programs. No individual parish has the time and resources to effectively engage in these activities.

3. The Coop has a strong future. There are plans for a Deanery-wide energy plan, central computer backup systems, and reduction in printing costs. The Deanery could possibly sponsor a Christo Rey High School. There is also some consideration for taking up sponsorship for youth centers as the City of San Jose moves toward privatizing the centers.
4. The Coop is a platform, operating under bylaws and supporting the participating parishes. As a result, granting agencies are more inclined to give money. Parish members see their donations at work in their parish and their local area, rather than buried in a centralized organization.
5. Single parishes do not have a strong voice at the Diocesan office. There is a great amount of competition for resources and a large number of advisory committees. The Coop contributes \$3M in ADA, a large amount of tax and has 25% of the Mass count in the diocese. The Coop provides a mechanism for the individual parishes to be heard.

There were contrary opinions.

1. Is the cost of participation really justified? From the experience of some of the participants with other dioceses, there was a feeling that these functions should be part of diocesan support structure, not driven by a coop of local parishes.
2. Are we repeating a diocesan structure which is in place, but either is not functional or hasn't been accessed?

The role of the Diocesan offices was discussed in detail. Each of the deaneries has their own set of local issues and problems. One centralized solution to a problem will not meet the needs all 52 parishes. The general consensus was that the East Side is unique in its problems: poverty, multilingual challenges, immigration explosion, and cultural differences. The Eastside needs to provide solutions to their problems, and if there is some transferability, certainly share them with other deaneries.

#### Should we hire a IT person to replace Ron Mitchell?

It was agreed that we should try to hire a replacement. Software and hardware have been working well, but as the systems age, there will be a need to maintain and perhaps upgrade in some special cases.

**Action: Bro. Jim will interview and hire. (2/27/06: Hire is done, still determining pay rates.)**

#### How should we manage the Dell leases? The leases are almost at their end.

The general recommendation was to let the leases run out and then run the equipment until it becomes obsolete. There is really no need for new faster computers since they present computers are not used to full capacity at this time.

**Action: All members to consider the impact on their program and answer back at the next meeting.**

#### Should we continue the Youth Ministry Internship program?

This program was judged to be very powerful. We need to get more money to continue.

**Action: Find out when the program is officially over for this year. (Jim Degnan)  
(2/27/06: Funding ends in June.)**

**Action: Find out the deadlines for reapplication to Raskob and other funding agencies. (Jim Degnan, Will Sousae) ( 2/27/06: work on this the week of 3/6)**

Other items:

There was a far-ranging discussion about the role of the Diocesan office in the parishes.

1. Capital Campaign: The goal is to raise \$100M to fund an Endowment.

How much of the burden of funding will be placed on the individual parishes?  
It will be hard to ask our parishioners to support yet another initiative for which they do not see an immediate local benefit.

If we do meet the \$100M goal, then how much does the ADA go down?

If we do meet the \$100M goal, then will the 10% parish tax be removed?

Exactly how will the individual parishes benefit, or will there be increasing centralization and expansion of Diocesan offices? (Case in-point: the new position of Minister of Parish Life)

2. The Diocesan office seems to have a lack of understanding of the requirements for new parishes on the Eastside.

There is a grave need for new parishes on the Eastside. MHT, SFOA, SJV all have parishioners standing at most of the Masses. We need to find new worship spaces.

We need to provide new models of parishes. Worship centers and other centers might work well.

There is a unique opportunity to purchase church properties in the near future. The evangelical churches are closing in favor of the "mega-churches". There are several pieces of land available, but they are going fast. We need to be able to trade some of the land we do own and get either developed property or vacant churches or buildings.

Will the endowment be used to purchase land for new parishes?

**Action: Tim Kidney to bring these issues up at the Deanery meeting.**