

PASTORAL PLANNING UPDATE

What has happened since the fall sessions?

Every written comment from those sessions was typed and studied by the members of the Pastoral Planning Steering Committee. The 'messages' on the reverse side of this sheet represent their considered sense of the substance of those conversations: the issues that call for attention in any plan for the future of our parish.

What happens next?

Over the coming month the members of the steering committee will create a **menu of possible options** for responding to the concerns contained in the report. Those options will represent *possible ways* we might respond as a faith community to those concerns.

It will then be up to **all members** of the community to weigh the potential implications, benefits, and risks involved in pursuing each of those options. That will take the form of a *second series of parish-wide conversations* later in the spring, dates to be announced when the list of options is in place.

At the conclusion of each session you as a participant will have the opportunity to register **your personal level of support or resistance** to each of the options.

The resulting cumulative ratings will then be transmitted to the Parish Pastoral Council. That picture will represent the collective wisdom of the parish community, guiding the council in its deliberations.

What is asked of you as a parishioner at this point?

Please review the messages. Study them. Pray over them. Share any reflections on them, and *especially any ideas about possible options for response*, with any of us on the steering committee. Written responses would help; simply put them in the collection basket or leave them at the parish office.

Steering Committee: *Marcia Allen, Dr. Orson Austin; Nancy Gary; Michaelle Jones; Alvina Lindsey; Marion Tucker; Cheryl Yarborough; Fr. George Wilson, Facilitator.*

PASTORAL PLANNING STEERING COMMITTEE

Messages from the Fall Planning Sessions

1. Although the pain and anger surrounding the **merger** still linger among some in the community, the prevalent response appears to be one of acceptance, hope, and commitment to making the Church of the Resurrection 'work.' The tone, however, does not yet translate into a sense of enthusiasm for the venture.
2. The practice, structures, and procedures for making and communicating **significant decisions** affecting the life of the parish are matters of concern. For example, Fr. Dennis is viewed (by some) as making unilateral decisions that are detrimental to parish finances, properties, and organizational effectiveness.
3. **Decreasing Mass attendance** was noted. Reasons for this decline (e.g., perceptions of leadership, perceived cliques, Mass length, transportation, etc.) are of concern as well as its negative impact on parish ministries and **financial stability**.
4. Various facets of our **liturgies** come in for question: length of homilies, and services in general; selection of music.
5. The demographic future of the parish surfaces in the call for new forms of outreach to **youth and young adults** (while continuing to address the needs of parishioners who are elderly, disabled, or shut-in.).
6. The **limitations of our present facilities** may be hindering our effectiveness in fulfilling the needs of our complex mission. Some form of new plant development appears to be needed if we are to fulfill the need for ministerial expansion in the coming years.
7. The parish's outlook on **relationships with other churches and the civic community** are cause for question. In particular, the site of our sanctuary in Bond Hill, Food Pantry & Soup Kitchen locations, and the sale of former properties raise questions concerning our responsibilities to the people of Lincoln Heights and Avondale.
8. The social ministries and **outreach to the community** are seen as important indicators of parish vitality to be celebrated and expanded.
9. Emerging in comments that cut across the areas above is an uneasiness that we may be becoming too 'busy,' engaging in much activity and losing a climate of **reflection and respect for the sacred**.