



**Diocese of Green Bay**  
**PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 29, 2022**

**Attendees:** Bishop David Ricken, Very Reverends John Girotti and Bill O'Brien, Reverends Joseph Dorner, Kennedy Gaspar, Bill Hoffman, Adam Bradley, James Lucas, Doug LeCaptain, Francis Nusi, Daniel Schuster, Larry Seidl, Matthew Rappl, James Baraniak, O. Praem. and Barry Metzentine  
N/A: Very Reverend Luke Ferris and Reverend Carl Schmitt

**Opening Activities**

- Meeting opened at 10:01 a.m.
- Bishop Ricken led the opening prayer
- Bishop Ricken introduced the new members to the council and the group introduced themselves.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion approved unanimously.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve and adopt the meeting minutes of the May 31, 2022, meeting as written. Motion approved unanimously.
- Mission statement was recited by Council members.

**Bishop Opening Comments**

Thank you for all that you are doing for the one by One campaign. We are up to \$64M of the \$74M goal. The Presbyteral Council is for corporate concerns, and general oversight of the diocese. The College of Consultors are chosen from this group. Canon 495: *The Presbyteral Council is a group of priests who represent the presbyterate and who are to be, as it were, the Bishop's senate. The council's role is to assist the bishop in accordance with law, in the governance of the diocese, so that the pastoral welfare of the people of the diocese may be most effectively promoted.* This group is a very important sounding board. We are working more with the vicar foranes, gives a chance to consolidate some of the services here. The planning stages are going very well. The Vicar forane is to visit each parish once every three years. The vicar forane needs to send a report to Tammy Basten, and she forwards any information to the various people on specific topics if needed.

Fr.Girotti—The vicar forane needs to look at the sacramental books, do a walkthrough of the buildings, check on the priest for how he is doing. Make sure that the proper bread and wine are being used. Also, the vicar would gather with the priests and pastoral leaders once per year, and then a second meeting with parish staff, parish councils.

Bishop—The purpose of the meeting with the priests and pastoral leaders is to build fraternity. This is meant to be of support and to move some of the services out to the local level. Work with neighboring parishes.

**Written Report from Fr. Luke on Update on Priests**

Fr. Girotti read the report on priests who are ill.

**Fitness for Ministry—Peter Murphy**

Peter—Currently, there is a Special Clergy Task Force. They would like to move to a Fitness for Ministry board, to include external representatives.

Bishop—Misconduct with priests and adults does not belong to the IRB. The Fitness for Ministry is to determine if a priest is having a problem, introduce some specialists, get them help if they need it.

Fr. Girotti—The Bishop's in 2002 enacted an IRB board for the abuse of a minor. All allegations go to the IRB to discuss and advise Bishop. When the issues come in regarding adults, normally we would have a Special Clergy Task Force to talk about what we would do with it. Other dioceses are establishing a Fitness for Ministry board.

Peter discussed a guiding principles document with the group. The Fitness for Ministry would include internal folks. They would also add 3-4 folks from the outside to serve a five-year term. The board would meet 4-5 times per year.

Some of the responses from the discussion:

- Establish a distinction of fitness for ordination versus fitness for ministry
- Suggestion that the name be an assessment for ministry or Fitness for Ministry Advisory Board
- Provide more information
- Would like to look at the Code of Ethics

The group will further discuss this topic at a future meeting to look at the Code of Ethics.

### **Worship Jesus Years and Bishop's Pastoral Letter**—Bishop Ricken and Gerard Hall

Bishop Ricken and Gerard Hall led a discussion on the Worship Jesus Years and Bishop's Pastoral Letter. Bishop's Pastoral Letter will be introduced at Clergy Congress, Diaconate Retreat, and the Day of Encounter. A study guide has been created to go along with the pastoral letter. The pastoral letter is a resource, it is in seven sections, and it can be pulled out to use as a teaching module. The pastoral letter is a way to deepen your connection to the Lord. Bishop's Pastoral Letter and Study Guide will be the guide for the next three years. The first year is to read, study and pray over the pastoral letter. The second year will focus on the Liturgy of the Word. The third year will focus on the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

Bishop—In July 2024, there will be a National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis. We will be able to send a delegate there who will come back and promote the Eucharist. Then in 2025, we will have a Diocesan Eucharistic Congress with a full day of catechesis. On Wednesday of Clergy Congress, Gerard will walk through this.

Gerard—The pastoral letter is available in Spanish. Bishop's Pastoral Letter will also be online.

### **Diaconate Track – Academic Institution**—Dcn. Shaun Johnson

Bishop—Each one of the diaconate candidates will receive formal training prior to going into the diaconate program. Dcn. Shaun is doing his doctorate work on diaconate formation and is now the Director of the Office of Diaconate.

The group discussed their experiences with deacons, what they find helpful about deacons, and what kind of formation is recommended.

Dcn. Shaun—In the pause, a new national directory of formation was issued. Before, it was one year of aspirancy and four years candidacy. Now it will be two years of aspirancy, because discernment of missionary discipleship is important for this person moving forward. The first year is to build on the thought of the propaedeutic year. The big question is academic formation. We want to give them a sense of what their vocation is, more and more deacons have stepped up to areas of leadership, so they need to have a proper understanding of the Church and understanding of themselves. Basic parameters of Institutions for consideration must have the following options:

1. Offer BA, MA or both academic credits
2. Have options and opportunities for our Spanish speaking population
3. Have a general understanding of the challenge of teaching this demographic
4. Focus on academics as well as the other dimensions of formation: pastoral, human, and spiritual

The institutions need to know the demographics of who the deacons are. We are looking for a formation institution that does academics. They need to know how to form men in the pastoral, human and spiritual as well as academic. We went before the diaconate board last week and we looked at other considerations:

1. Ability to have learners' side by side no matter the educational level
2. Offers a similar experience of learning if not in-person
3. Offer certificate if not taking for credit
4. Connected to a seminary

We started with 12 institutions and narrowed it down to: St. Meinrad, Augustine Institute, Seton Hall, and University of St. Thomas. Dcn. Shaun went over what each program has to offer, and the group discussed the benefits of the institutions.

Dcn. Shaun—We have 100 active deacons. The projection is that very soon we will be having more and more in senior status.

#### **Missionary Leadership Institute—Jamie Whalen**

Jamie—The first year of the Missionary Leadership Institute is the intensive year, like Kairos year and aspirancy in diaconate. The diaconate aspirants are currently in Missionary Leadership Institute. It is designed to be a three-year process. The second year would be staff, like Emmaus. It is designed for a broader array of leaders such as alpha leaders, catechists, those bringing Communion to the homebound, parish council, and finance council. We have 56 enrolled in the intensive year, there are 16 in Spanish, 12 aspirants, and 6 aspirant wives. Some of you have participated in Entrust, the 3-day event. Parish Life runs Entrust. For some people, Entrust is plenty. For others who want a deeper experience for a year to build and practice their skills, then Missionary Leadership Institute is better. Leadership in your parish would be good for Missionary Leadership Institute. It is for people who want more.

Fr. Girotti—It is helping folks fall in love with the Lord in the first year and then tools for the ministry in the two years to follow.

Jamie—It is also for a broader amount of people than just parish staff.

Fr. Girotti—Formation and then followed by classes.

Bishop—The Entrust retreats have been very well received. There are lots of opportunities.

Jamie—The first-year intensive will be yearly. Years two and three will be a cohort and not every year.

#### **What can be Shared from this Meeting/Discussion on Distribution of Notes—Bishop Ricken**

Fr. Girotti—Fitness for Ministry is still in working stages.

Bishop—It is not well enough developed.

Bishop—All formation for seminarians, lay leaders and deacons are in missionary leadership. We are looking at other institutions for academic diaconate.

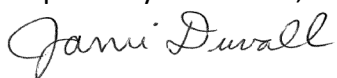
Fr. Girotti—Missionary Leadership Institute is happening.

Bishop—Thank you for being here.

Bishop closed with prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jami Duvall

Recording Secretary