

Minutes from PAX Steering Committee (SC) meeting Sept 9, 2024

The meeting opened at 12:05 PM Eastern with a prayer.

We started out the meeting with a discussion involving Megan Hookey on Zoom about her approach to moderating the topic of St Luke gift giving at the Sept 15, 2024 General Membership Meeting (GMM). She indicated the following:

- Interviewed a cross section of PAX community with diverse opinions on approaching the gift giving, including Shane McCarthy and Fr. John Vitko to help focus her approach
- Based on that, she will propose two paths to gift giving: individual donation to a landscaping fund for St Luke via PAX or individual unconditional monetary donation to St Luke via PAX for whatever need St Luke chooses
- Final action to conduct open discussion to reach closure on approach.

Next, we decided the items for the GMM agenda. Mike Schaeffer agreed to assemble short simple bulletized list and circulate the SC for approval. The following list was approved and distributed to Marian Klymkowsky for publication:

- St Luke Gifting – moderated discussion
- Nominating Committee Selections
- Joint NOVA/PAX Collaboration Dialogues
- Concern for Pursuit of New Future Presiders
- Draft Policy for PAX Personal Statements Involving Outside Organizations
- Renew PAX Facebook Page to Share Topics of Interest
- Bimonthly Financial Report Summary

We discussed the topic of continued dialog on joint NOVA/PAX liturgies. Follow up discussions will be ongoing. The idea of pursuing a joint Christmas liturgy was proposed and agreed we should pursue sooner than later based on holiday plans by individuals are formulated early vs. later. Ideas from the earlier joint liturgy will be discussed at the GMM. Mary agreed to track ideas that come up.

Katy presented the proposal from the nominating committee to ask Mary Linda Sara and Ron Novak to be our next SC members with Katy and Doug's term coming to an end. Katy will take care of coordinating whether they accept the SC's offer and make plans for the installation liturgy sometime in October 2024 if they accept.

Next, we decided to appoint Mafalda Marroco as the liaison for PAX to explore reactivating our defunct facebook account as a way to bring ourselves together with NOVA for pursuing intercommunication. It was decided to pursue further at the GMM.

We discussed further Marian Klymkowsky's request to the SC to define the community's parameters for the Community members to identify PAX affiliation on personal communications outside the community. Doug provided a draft statement on the topic for consideration. It was decided to distribute the statement for discussion at the GMM.

We discussed Anne Kifer's email to the SC about her concerns on the difficulties and challenges on scheduling presiders for the PAX community in-person liturgies. We agreed to provide Anne's email as requested to the community for the GMM and put the topic on the GMM agenda.

The financial statement for 1 July to 31 August 2024 was presented. It showed the trend of donations picking up after the summer season and the ability of PAX to continue to meet its financial commitments.

The next meeting of the PAX SC is scheduled for Oct 4, 1:30 PM EDT

Respectfully submitted for the SC,

Mike Schaeffer

Attachments:

- Doug's draft statement
- Anne Kifer's email
- 1 July to 31 August 2024 PAX community financial statement

PAX Policy on Individual/Community Endorsements

PAX members are personally active in many organizations whose values and objectives they believe align with the Gospel values which are central to PAX. PAX is often a wellspring of spiritual support to members actively involved in groups focused on such areas as: social justice, care for creation, racial justice, religious education, homelessness and hunger, and other topics. PAX, as an organization, does not usually become a “member” of the organizations with which PAX members engage, though in some cases it provides financial or other support for the activities of PAX members. In those situations in which PAX members are active in such organizations, they may identify themselves publicly as a “PAX Community, Member.” It is expected that PAX members will use good judgment in avoiding the public association of PAX with organizations that may create controversy within PAX or between PAX and the Diocese of Arlington.

In some instances PAX, as an organization, has undertaken a specific community-wide activity or taken a community-wide position. PAX has had several “Mission Groups” focused on particular needs or interests which were established after community-wide discussion and discernment. Support for Syrian refugee families is an example of a PAX Mission Group. PAX has also published “statements” reflecting the community’s position with respect to specific issues. The PAX Report on the Synod on Synodality and the PAX Gaza Israel Statement, both of which are published on the public facing section of the PAX website, are recent examples of public community-wide statements. The endorsement by the PAX Community of organizations or positions requires involvement of the full community and should be initiated through the Steering Committee.

From: Anne Kifer <annekifer2@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2024 10:55 AM
To: Mary Blissard; Katy Dugarm; Judy/Mike Schaeffer; Doug Spaulding
Cc: Charles Hookey; McCarthy Shane; Marian Klymkowsky
Subject: Next General Meeting

Hi all,

I may not be able to attend the next General Meeting..... It is Rob's birthday weekend and we may be away.

In case I can't make it, could this email be read to the community?

Thanks,
Anne

Dear Fellow PAX Members,

I am sorry I can't make it today but I wanted to share some thoughts about scheduling Priests for our celebrations.

I have been in the role of Presider scheduler for two years now and I am very concerned for the future of PAX regarding priests. We only have four Priests who celebrate with us and two of them are over 90 years old.

We are very fortunate to have four very dedicated Priests but the reality is that they are four very busy people. They all have longstanding commitments to other communities. Ted always wants to celebrate with Greenbelt for Advent and Lent. Joe has twice a month commitments to Our Lady Queen of Peace. Tuck has many retreats he is involved with and Vince has mobility and hearing issues which makes Zoom a real challenge for him. All of them except Vince have a long standing commitment for Christmas and Easter so they are not available.

We as a community need to do something and do it now. There is a lot of chatter about how many times a month we should be "in person" verses Zoom. I am not sure right now we would be able to schedule Priests for three or four times a month. This last scheduling cycle there were two Sundays where I did not have any Priest available.

And in a few years our "in person" gatherings will not be a full Mass because we won't have a Priest to preside. Think about what PAX will look like in 5 years regarding our Priests..... and also our "members". If we don't do something now PAX may not exist in 5 or 10 years.

Since I am in Wisconsin and I have never had any connections to the greater Washington DC Catholic community, I am not a good person to recruit Priests. Some of you are very connected to the Catholic community and know retired Priests or Priests who are not connected with a Parish. My recommendation is that PAX form a committee or at least appoint a "Priest recruiter" who will reach out to Priests to see if they would like to join us.

One hope I have for the future is when St. Lukes finishes their chapel that PAX can move the time back so that it is more doable for people to attend. When I did reach out to a retired Priest last year on recommendation from a PAX member, he was okay until I said we began at 9am in McLean. He didn't want to start that early and he refused to celebrate via zoom.

Just some thoughts.
Thanks, Anne

PAX Balance Sheet

Reporting period 7-1-2024 to 8-31-2024

Prior bank balance 7-1-2024
Available checkbook balance on 7-1-2024
Current bank balance 8-31-2023
Available checkbook balance on 8-31-2024

\$32,090.04
\$28,290.04
\$30,497.64
\$29,497.64
(current bank balance - uncashed check amount not incl in total)
(includes uncashed check total of \$1000)

INCOME (this period)

General Fund Donations
7-1 to 8-31-24

\$4,367.60

EXTERNAL DISBURSEMENTS (this period)

General Fund	MISC
Presider honorarium	\$ 2,000.00 (\$250/service)
Rent	\$ 1,000.00 (\$250/service)
Other Operational Expenses	
Supplies	\$ -
Website	\$ -
Transportation	\$ -
State Corp Commission	\$ -
Martha's Table	\$ -
Printing	\$ -
Zoom	\$ 10.50
Advertising	\$ -
Oxfam	\$ -
Sound Equipment	\$ -
Religious Goods	\$ -
Music license	\$ -

No Social Needs Disbursements Made Between 7-1-2024 and 8-31-2024

Detail on Current Amounts Held by Specific Programs as of August 31, 2024

People In Need (PIN)	\$ 2,804.86
Food for Others	\$ 1,082.73
Benjamin Family Fund	\$ 2,015.00
Reenie Fund	\$ 289.04
Syrian Family Fund	\$ 3,968.56 (will be disbursed over next 6 months)
TOTAL	\$ 10,160.19

Committees and Msn Groups

Folk Group	\$ -
Social Needs Disb. Com.	\$ -
Care for Creation Comm.	\$ -
We Hear Your Voice Comm.	\$ -
Education Committee	\$ 200.00 (Joan Trumpauer donation)
Childrens' Rel. Ed. Comm.	\$ -
Youth Rel. Ed. Comm.	\$ -

Specific Program

PIN	\$ 750.00
Food for Others	\$ 1,000.00
Benjamin Family Fund	\$ 550.00 (\$275/mo.)
Reenie Fund	\$ 1,500.00 (\$500/mo.)
Syrian Family Fund	\$ -
Social Needs Disb. Com.	\$ -

Specific Program

People In Need (PIN)	\$ 25.00
Food for Others	\$ 1,575.00
Benjamin Family Fund	\$ -
Reenie Fund	\$ 1,400.00
Syrian Family Fund	\$ -
Folk Group	\$ 250.00
St. Luke collections	\$ -
Social Concerns	\$ -

Other Income

Interest	\$ 0.50
Cashback	\$ -
Write off old uncashed checks	\$600
Chkbk to Bank stmt reconcile	\$ -
TOTAL INCOME:	\$ 8,218.10

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:

\$ 7,010.50

Available account balance on 7-1-2024
Available account balance on 8-31-2024
Net balance

\$28,290.04
\$29,497.64
\$1,207.60 Net amounts balance

(Income - Disbursements) = \$