

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel Pastoral Council Meeting
October 8, 2025, 5:00pm-6:30pm. Minutes**

Members Present:

Fr Jhonnatan Carmona
Orla Cook
Sherie Dodsworth
Alondra Klemek
Daryl Lyon
Kyle McKay
Whitney Robare
Lonni Trykowski (via Zoom)
Trini Resendiz (via Zoom)

New Members

Opening prayers led by Fr Jhonnatan. He also welcomed Whitney Robare and Kyle McKay as new members to the pastoral council.

Previous Minutes

Minutes from the meeting on September 4 were approved subject to comments by Daryl and Lonnie.

Altar and Sanctuary feedback

Kyle McKay: She expressed appreciation for the recent changes in the sanctuary area and noted how these have positively impacted her prayer life. Also, members of her family who are active parishioners have expressed a strong appreciation for the recent changes.

Members reported that there has been some parishioner feedback on the changes to the sanctuary and about the lack of consultation. The members then debated the changes made to the altar and sanctuary which included the following items:

Altar piece

- Removing the gold accents from the top of the back altar
- Altering the star designs to be placed around Jesus Crucified and St. Joseph, or only around the Virgin Mary?
- Consider making the altar side pieces a darker blue.
- Consulting with a professional designer first to seek their input

Picture Frames

- Getting alternate frames for the paintings so they stand out less
- The council members liked the antique frame design for its simplistic design and it suiting the aesthetic of the church
- Suggesting having samples of the frame colors be brought in to decide on the color

Ian McKay, Kyle's brother, is a designer/artist, so it was suggested that he attend our next meeting to discuss the design of the back altar and pictures frames. Ian has been invited to the meeting by Fr. Jhonnatan, but he has not yet confirmed. It was further proposed that the members consult with other parish bodies and active parishioners about these changes.

Due to the discontent within some members of the parish on this issue, it was agreed that the messaging from the council had to be cohesive to avoid any miscommunication. It was suggested that Fr Jhonnatan write a letter explaining his reasoning and further steps forward. Progress on this item would be reviewed at the next meeting.

Structure of the Pastoral Council

The members discussed the structure of the pastoral council including:

- Need to go into greater details about the structure of the council to fit the parish, and ensure that it is in compliance with Canon Law, and Draff Document from the Diocese.
- Consider consulting with the Diocesan deacon responsible for this area for further clarification
- Amend the by-laws as appropriate to suit parish needs
- Determine further details such as elections and nominations committee.

The secretary will arrange for this matter to be brought forward for review at the next meeting.

Fundraising Ideas

Fr Jhonnatan reported from the earlier Finance Committee meeting that the parish is not raising enough money solely from plate collection. As a result, the Finance Committee is asking for ideas on how to raise funds for the church. This topic will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Council e-mail address: Some members of the Council were surprised to receive emails forwarded from the Council email address, pastoralcouncil@ourladycarmelvalley.org without prior consultation. As a result, all members of the Council, except Orla Cook and Alondra Klemek, agreed that they do not wish to have emails forwarded to them directly. The volunteer secretary Orla Cook will compile the emails and provide a report of them to the Council members.

New Parishioners Open House & Early Christmas Party.

On Fri. Nov. 14th 5:30-6:45pm. Around 15 new families have recently registered in our parish community. Fr. Jhonnatan would like to welcome them and help them get involved in our parish ministries. He also wishes to invite some members of the Pastoral Council to be present at this celebration as we warmly welcome our new parishioners.

Meeting Time

The meeting time for this Pastoral council meeting will be extended to an hour and a half, to ensure that there is enough time to discuss issues and agree actions.

Next Meeting Date: November 5th 5:30pm-7:00pm