

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Pastoral Council Meeting
November 5, 2025 5:30pm-6:30pm
Minutes**

Chair: Fr Jhonnatan Carmona

Members Present:

Orla Cook
Sherie Dodsworth
Alondra Klemek (via call)
Daryl Lyon
Whitney Robare
Lonni Trykowski (via call)

Absent:

Kyle McKay
Trini Resendiz

Listeners:

John Finn
Ian McKay
Sarah Cook

Introduction

Fr. Jhonnatan led the council in prayer to start the meeting.

Altar and Sanctuary

Introduction was made to Ian McKay who is giving the council his opinion as a hobbyist on the back altar piece and the paintings. Ian showed the council a series of pictures of what the church looked like from the 1950s to what it looks like at present to compare the designs of then and now. His personal opinion was that he likes the changes, seeing it as a natural progression of the church, but does think that there are some proportional details that could be fixed that would make it a good centralizing point for the tabernacle. There was an agreement among Sherie, Whitney and Orla that they liked how it drew the eye.

Ian's suggestion was to sort out proportioning for the thickness of the wooden beams, and the size of the stars to be alternating. If not, then have a star pattern to make it look less random. Also, remove the finials (gold accents on the top), to emphasize height.

Lonnie asked where the money had come from to fund these designs. As it was a donation, does the person who donated the money have more influence over the design of the church? We do not want an environment where changes are based on who has the most money. While we are suggesting these changes, it is not addressing the larger issue of how people with the most amount of money have influence over the church.

Fr. Jhonnatan confirmed that the donor had no influence on the design of the back altar and that the carpenters who made the back altar gave the frames for the paintings. There are no plans to remove the paintings after Fr. Jhonnatan had spoken with the chancery office. There is another donor who donated the paintings who wishes to remain anonymous.

There was then a discussion about what material the frames were made out of, which was found to be resin cast molds. Looking at the frame paints from the last meeting, the overall sentiment was that it did not change much, so the decision was to have replacement frames. However with the current financial state of the church that is probably not possible right now.

Also noted was whether the frames are the issue or is it the paintings which are the main point of contention? Also, any potential wooden frames would still have some ornate elements.

A decision was made to move to a more simplistic wood frame to match the church design or an alternate material, such as sapele wood.

Action: Consider how the paintings look without the frames; Ian to obtain an estimate, make a corner piece, and get a reference; remove finials from the back altar.

Fundraising Ideas

The church depends on the AMA funds and the parish is not getting enough money from the plates. Proposals to address this included the following ideas:

- BBQ
- Use the church hall space for events such as bingo or art classes.

The Pastoral Council needs to understand better the finances, so a meeting with the Finance Committee was proposed.

Action: Arrange a joint meeting between the Pastoral Council and Finance Committee.

New Parishioners Christmas Party

Whitney, Daryl and Orla confirmed their attendance at the event on November 14.

By-Laws

A series of draft documents were presented by Sherie who advised that the Charter is a better fit for the parish. It would require there to be an election for officers of the council. In order for Sherie to finalise the charter and come up with a final draft, it was proposed creating a sub-committee with two other council members. This final draft would then be brought back to the next Pastoral Council meeting for review and agreement.

Action: Arrange a separate meeting for discussion of the charter and the By Laws.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday 5th February 2026 at 5:30pm - 7.00pm