

Spirit of Christ Mission

Strategic Planning Meeting - April 28, 2015

A follow-up to the November 2014 was held at Spirit of Christ (SOC) on April 28th. The meeting began with a brief overview of the November meeting including:

Summary of Previous Meeting

- A review of the July 2014 letter to the SOC community about the financial challenges faced by SOC.
- Problems with Financial Committee receiving timely reports (Note: Jim McDonald was introduced as the new finance manager and he has been able to develop monthly financial reports for SOC finance committee. Welcome Jim!).
- Questions about expenses and how to reduce expenses.
- What is SOC “fair share” of shared expenses?

Since then...

- SOC community has continued to respond generously and shows the commitment to the viability of the community.
- SOC is currently positive financially but the Diocesan Annual Assessment is coming due (\$5475). Jim McDonald distributed the April finance report which confirmed this assessment.
- On the expense side, while there are some relatively minor expenses that can be looked at and reduced, both SOC and BT operate on a very lean budget.
- It also became very apparent that SOC and BT are very much in a co-dependent relationship. Neither parish is in a strong position to stand alone. **Each parish needs the other.**
- Instead of using a predetermined percentage breakdown (2/7), we looked at the number of household that are able to financially contribute to the parish. Last year SOC had 58 contributing households (27%) and BT had 155 contributing households (73%).
- It was also very clear that simply requesting/expecting households to contribute more was not a viable solution.

Where to from here...

- Since reducing expenses was not enough and expecting larger contributions is unrealistic, it became apparent at both SOC and BT that the most logical direction really must be to grow our parishes. This is the direction that we need to go. This is the call to action.
- To be financially viable without increasing the financial burden on everyone, SOC should set a goal to grow the parish to 70 contributing households in the next 5 years. The parish needs to grow by 3-5 households per year. If the parish continues to get smaller, at 55 households the parish is in serious trouble and at 50 households, the parish will not be viable.
- Financial viability should not be the primary goal. It should be the outcome of a growing, vibrant community of faith. This is what we are called to. This is our mission.
- Some preliminary suggestions included conducting a survey of current enrolled SOC membership to find out why people are not attending. Also, identify these families and work to welcome them back to SOC.
- This is task at hand. Your finance committee will be leading this project but it is important that everyone bring their ideas to the table.

Respectfully,
Rick Curtis

