

## Minutes from Meeting on 1/10/2017

Members present: Z Schaefer, Marty Merkt, Elaine Maisonet, Kate Neugent, Anna Retzke, Carol Bannen, Mary Benson, Mary Pat Pfeil, Linda Bardele, Kristin Fischer, Mary Anderson, Sue Schmitt, Tom Heller, Steve Obscherning

-Z Schaefer opened the meeting with a prayer. All who were present briefly introduced themselves and stated their connection to the Human Concerns Committee.

- The purpose of this meeting was to develop a **mission statement** for the Human Concerns Committee.

- Ron Retzke of Retzke and Associates led us through a very helpful discussion of the differences between a Vision and a Mission Statement (see PDFs attached to the email for a more in-depth explanation):

-**Vision Statement:** describes the desired future position of the organization

-**Mission Statement:** defines an organization's business, its objectives, and its approach to meet those objectives

- We divided into 3 break-out groups to brainstorm about ideas for our vision statement based on the thoughts we had discussed at our last meeting in November, which were as follows:

*Our mission is to imitate Jesus and to love and serve our brothers and sisters.*

*Our mission is to encounter Jesus through our service to others.*

*Our mission is to serve God by serving others.*

*We focus our time, talent, and treasure on those people within our parish and throughout the Milwaukee Archdiocese who are in need, as well as those organizations who serve them. We do this through direct service, education, prayer and financial support. In doing so we intend to lift them up and give them hope.*

-This is the mission statement we came up with collectively, post brainstorming:

***Our mission is to focus our time, talent, and treasure on individuals and families who are in need within our parish, throughout the Milwaukee Archdiocese and beyond, as well as those organizations who serve them. We accomplish this through direct service, education, prayer, and financial support. We do this to extend God's compassion and mercy.***

-Ron's objective and professional opinion was that this mission statement is good as it is not too limiting, nor too broad and it answers the key questions of *what, who, how, and why*. There were a few additional ideas put forth regarding the order of the sentences and word choice. In an effort to honor all voices and to make the best choice as a group, there are 3 possible mission statements to consider. They are listed below as **A, B, and C**, with **A** being the one we worked on as a group. We'd like to get the mission statement approved quickly so that we can move forward with the work on the brochure. Please consider these 3 possibilities and cast your vote by emailing Marty Merkt ([mmerkt6@gmail.com](mailto:mmerkt6@gmail.com)) by Monday, January 30th.

***A. Our mission is to focus our time, talent, and treasure on individuals and families who are in need within our parish, throughout the Milwaukee Archdiocese and beyond, as well as those organizations who serve them. We accomplish this through direct service, education, prayer and financial support. We do this to extend God's compassion and mercy.***

***B. Our mission is to extend God's compassion and mercy. We focus our time, talent, and treasure on individuals and families who are in need within our parish, throughout the Milwaukee Archdiocese and beyond, as well as those organizations who serve them. We accomplish this through direct service, education, prayer and financial support.***

(This version simply changes the order of the sentences).

***C. Our mission is to focus our time, talent, and treasure on individuals and families who are in need within our parish, throughout the Milwaukee Archdiocese and beyond, as well as those organizations who serve them. We accomplish this through direct service, education, prayer and financial support. We do all of this to extend God's compassion and mercy.***

(Here the words "all of this" are added to the last sentence).

- As a reminder, we began this process as a first step in compiling a comprehensive brochure for the Human Concerns Committee. We discussed the fact that it is important to point out within the brochure that we are a Catholic organization. It was also suggested that it include how our work reflects the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.

Thank you so much for all of your help with developing our mission statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Marty Merkt