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Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When last I wrote to you, we were in the midst of a capital campaign, *One Heart, One Soul*. I am grateful for its successful conclusion and thankful to those of its organizing committee who did such good and faithful work on behalf of us all at St. Augustine's.

In that letter, I described the governance situation of our parish: a pastor, a parish minister, and a small finance committee, and indicated that realizing any of the proposed projects of the capital campaign would require greater involvement by parishioners in their being well planned and carried out.

I must further observe that ongoing operation of the parish with an aim to improving spiritual health, good fiscal management and maintenance of its physical assets, most notably our beautiful 19th century church, but also our parish centre, offices and rectory, requires broad participation from parishioners.

I am very encouraged and glad to share with you the first fruits of our parish renewal. In the way of spiritual nurture, we have formed a core group of adult catechists, the good people animating our education evenings ("Presence" and "Symbolon"). I pray with confidence that this ministry will continue to grow. Our pastoral ministry to shut-ins is reviving with several having discerned a call to it. Our liturgical ministries (sacristans, ushers, servers, lectors and eucharistic ministers) are still in need of new people to serve alongside those currently offering sterling service.

It is a great pleasure to tell you that we have now a Parish Advisory Council. This is a small group of parishioners who have been drawn from among you based on their experience, talents, interest, etc. to serve for the coming year. This is a start on putting in place a continuing system of parish governance.

The members of the council are: Martin Strybosch, Dave Weber, Yvette Beach, Kim van den Heuvel, Doug Herman, Deborah Altmann.

Our finance committee, required by Church law, is in need of new members with the resignation of Sean Flatt after years of faithful service (God bless you, Sean!), and the moving over of Dave Weber to the advisory council, and Martin and Doug doing double duty on both the council and this committee.

