
Christ the Savior Orthodox Church
Annual Parish Meeting
January 26, 2020

The meeting was opened with a prayer led by Fr. John at 10:45 a.m.

IN ATTENDANCE:

- *Rector:* Fr. John Parsells
- *Clergy:* Fr. Daniel Hubiak, Dn. Steven Hall
- *Parish Council:* Patricia McAlpin, *Senior Warden*, Larry Perrone, *Junior Warden*, Ioana Davidson, *Treasurer*, Ginny Borodulia, Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones, and Cecilia Wyant.
- *Parish Members/Guests:* Mat. Emily Parsells, Nissa Nancy Hall, Daniel Garcia, Lowen Howard, Tom Mathews, Deborah Wilson, Margaret LoGerfo, Yvonne Eckerd, Marian Ridge, Robin Armstrong, Rachael Howard, Barbara Kaloroumakis, Michael Sisco, Joanne Bushman, Bobbie Dobronz, Kathy Parrish, Bill Parrish, Joanne Patrick, David McAlpin, Francisco Paiz, Matt Delcher, Cami Milite, Kimberly Perrone.

AGENDA:

1. Nomination of Secretary
2. Review of Previous Minutes
3. Report of the Rector
4. Report of the Senior Warden
5. Report of the Junior Warden
6. Report of the Treasurer
7. Report of the Auditors
8. Report of the Entrance Commission
9. Proposed Financial Budget
10. Parish Council Membership Nominations
11. Old and New Business

1. Nomination of Secretary

First item of business was selection of new secretary.

Motion to nominate Margaret LoGerfo as Secretary: David McAlpin

Second: Joanne Bushman

Vote: All in favor

2. Review of Previous Minutes

Copies of last year's Annual Meeting minutes were handed out in advance of the meeting. Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones was thanked for taking the minutes.

Motion to accept the minutes: Kathy Parrish

Second: Larry Perrone

Vote: All in favor

3. Report of the Rector

Fr. John reviewed major events from 2019 as outlined in the rector's report.

- Fr. John observed our attendance at Sunday Liturgy is growing and included a record setting 80. Attendance has doubled in the last 10 years and stewardship has doubled in the last 8 years. As a result we have made numerous enhancements and repairs to our Church. In addition to new members, our church family was blessed with the addition of Archpriest Joseph and Mat. Annice Oleynik who relocated here to assist Mat. Annice's parents, Fr Daniel and Mat. Dunia Hubiak. They have already been a great help to our Church.
- In addition to enabling many improvements to the premises, the growth in stewardship enabled us to support Project Mexico and a well-attended educational retreat, A Christian Ending, conducted by Fr Soroka.
- There was also an important visit to Moscow by Fr Daniel and Reader Nicholas. Fr Daniel was awarded the medal of St Mark of Ephesus for his role in opening the OCA Representation Church of St Catherine in Moscow 25 years ago.
- Fr. John reminded everyone to save the date of August 16th 2020 for our own 20th anniversary celebration featuring a visit from his Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon.
- Fr. John reported that they have received approval for the new septic field essential for the future expansion of the Church. All expansion plans for our property must take into account the substantial wetland areas. We have only 5000sq ft currently available for expansion without mitigation. It is expected before expansion proceeds, we will have to negotiate the setting aside of more wetland area to compensate for land we expect to use for construction.
- With regard to funding of this work, Fr. John explained that last year a vision statement was approved that outlined plans and enabled the receipt of donations for the new building. The work is funded by special donations earmarked for the Building Fund. New accounts at BB&T were opened with \$4K in operating and \$1K in saving. Funds from operating may be expended by the commission with general parish council oversight/review. Funds from the savings account require full parish and hierarchical approval.
- Fr John commended the Outreach Committee on securing permission for roadside signage in the general area, as well as the Parish mailings and calls which strengthen our community.

- Fr. John also recognized the work of the Finance committee in terms of improvement to the balance sheet as well as opening a Parish credit card making expenses and their accounting more efficient and transparent.
- Fr. John invited Larry Perrone to discuss Church insurance issues. Larry discussed the ongoing deliberations regarding the switch from our current insurance provider to Orthodox Insurance Systems. The cost of premiums would go down after this switch but the deductible would go up significantly in the event of wind related damage. More research will be conducted by the Parish Council. All interested parties are encourage to attend the meetings.
- Fr John further praised the attendance and interest in ongoing education initiatives including the classes with catechumens, Bible study, youth education, family fellowship and the well-attended Orthodoxy 101 seminars. These seminars on Sunday afternoons often see an attendance of 30 to 40 parishioners.
- Thank you to all those who make the liturgical services and fellowship opportunities possible including the choir and its 4 directors, the servers, Readers, and those who make our Parish Hall receptions a success.
- In addition to these goals for the Church premises, Fr John pointed to our primary, ongoing goal of Learning, Living, and Loving our Orthodox faith.

Motion to accept the Rector's Report: Cecilia Wyant

Second: Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones

Vote: All in favor

4. Report of the Senior Warden

Pat McAlpin expressed her gratitude to the strong support of so many parishioners who made these 2019 improvements possible. She thanked all the parishioners who supported her in her role and helped make this a very successful year for Christ the Savior Church.

Motion to accept the Senior Warden's report: Deborah Wilson

Second: Marian Ridge

Vote: All in favor

5. Report of the Junior Warden

Larry discussed the proposed 2020 maintenance projects such as the roof valley work, which will occur along with the new entrance project. Pat McAlpin urged all of us to look around and notice the many improvements already made for our collective benefit.

Motion to accept the Junior Warden's report: David McAlpin

Second: Bill Parrish

Vote: All in favor

6. Report of the Treasurer

Ioanna Davidson reviewed the balance sheet and the profit and loss statement. The Parish had a good year; we finished under budget in expenses while increasing stewardship leaving us \$5,500 in the black. This money will be rolled over in the operating account to cover typical seasonal shortfalls in stewardship.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report: Mat. Emily Parsells

Second: Tom Mathews

Vote: All in favor

7. Report of the Auditors

Barbara Kaloroumakis asked the attendees to take a moment to review the Audit Report, which found no major exceptions in the examination. The auditors and the Treasurer observed that the careful completion of collection envelopes contributes to the accurate reporting of stewardship and minimizes the need for costly bank research.

Motion to accept the auditors' report: Larry Perrone

Second: Joanne Patrick

Vote: All in favor

8. Report of the Entrance Commission

The report of the Entrance Commission was read while drawings of the plans for the new entrance were circulated to attendees.

Trees will be removed in February. Tom Matthews stated that the entrance plans have been submitted to Worcester County. The plans are enhanced by excellent drawings of the proposed project made by our iconographer. The entrance sign will be lighted on both sides and there are plans for 11 lampposts along the driveway. These lights will need additional funding since the cost is approximately \$1,000 per light. Fr. John confirmed there will be lighting on the entrance walls and mentioned there will be decorative mosaics incorporated into the design featuring Orthodox symbols. He also observed in future years we may consider an arch over the entrance to the property with the Icon Not-Made-By-Hands decorating the top of the arch.

Kathy Parrish inquired on the condition of the driveway but because of likely damage to the driveway from the garbage trucks and construction vehicles, no additions of stone will happen before completion of the entrance project. Larry Perrone pointed out that expansion of our parking area will likely occur at some future time but nothing can be done until a wetland delineation is secured and we develop a master plan.

Bobbie Dobronz suggested we consider adding an American flag to the outside landscaping, especially since it honors and pleases our Parish veterans. Fr. John suggested that once the landscaping and new drive is complete we can look at a possible location for a flagpole but we must bear in mind there is always additional maintenance involved in honoring our flag, such as

keeping it lit and bringing it in during storms. Joanne Patrick inquired on whether there was a need for increased drainage, but that is not needed at this time.

Joanne Bushman pointed out that parishioners should earmark contributions to the entrance project on their envelopes otherwise the funds will go to operating. Fr. John encouraged everyone to consider supporting these projects by helping with the plans and donating for their success.

Motion to accept the Planning Commission's report: Barbara Kaloroumakis

Second: David McAlpin

Vote: All in favor

9. Proposed Financial Budget

Fr. John directed the attention of the Parish Body to the proposed 2020 budget (included as a hard copy in the meeting packet). The ensuing discussion focused on the following points:

Tom Matthews expressed his concern for families attending our church who might require financial assistance while we are embarking on these new physical improvement projects. Fr. John stated that we have and do continue to significantly help parishioners, but these fundraisers are handled outside of the budget upon a per needs basis. He also clarified the definition of feast day expenses, such as special baked goods.

In reviewing the proposed budget for 2020, Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones observed there is a projected \$4400 shortfall and suggested the 2020 budget be accepted with the condition that we strongly encourage an increase in stewardship to keep the budget balanced.

Motion to revise the proposed 2020 budget, increasing stewardship levels to balance the budget:

Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones

Second: Larry Perrone

Vote: All in favor

10. Parish Council Nominations

There was a discussion of the need to bring on new Council members due to the rotational leave taking of 5 members and the relocation of Jason Kratzer to a monastery. Margaret LoGerfo and Dr. Joanne Bushman were nominated to join the Council and agreed.

It was agreed that the usual eligibility rules would be relaxed for the purpose of increasing the Council membership. Two proposed members, Reader George and Michael Cook, were not present so they will be invited to serve by Fr. John. In addition, the rule that Council members must have a year of membership before joining the Council was also waived. This enabled Marian Ridge, Lowen and Rachael Howard to also join the Council. If the two absentee members accept service on the Council, we will have 7 new members.

Motion to accept the nominations for Parish Council membership: Cecilia Wyant

Second: Deborah Wilson

Vote: All in favor

11. Old and New Business

Fr John called for a discussion of any old and new business and there was no additional discussion.

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Joanne Bushman

Second: Kathy Parrish

Vote: All in favor

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer led by Fr. John at 12:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret LoGerfo