

Christ the Savior Orthodox Church
Annual Parish Meeting
February 6, 2022

The meeting was opened with a hymn and a prayer by Fr. John at 10:47.

In Attendance:

Rector: Father John Parsells

Parish Council: Cecilia Wyant, Senior Warden, Don Rowe, Junior Warden, Rachael Howard, Treasurer, Margaret LoGerfo, Secretary, Ginny Borodulia, Joanne Bushman (Zoom), Ioana Davidson, Chad Fortin, Pat McAlpin, Marian Ridge, Anne Rowe (Zoom)

Parish Members/Guests: Mat Annice Oleynick, Mat. Emily Parsells, Ella Parsells, Daria Parsells, Nissa Nancy Hall, Reader George and Ellen Kaloroumakis, Barbara Kaloroumakis, Bobbie Dobronz, Justin DeArmitt, Bill and Kathy Parrish, Rdr. Nick Borodulia, Beth Dunbar, Amy Fortin, Tom and Georgianne Mathews, David McAlpin, Joanne Patrick, Mirona Bendfeldt, Cami Milite, Kelly Hageman, Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones, Amy Fortin, Jack and Michele Harshbarger, Anastasia Bakie, Pax Garcia, Carol Fravel

Agenda:

1. Nomination of Secretary
2. Review of 2021 Annual Meeting 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. Other Reports
9. Proposed Financial Budget
10. Parish Council Membership Nominations
11. Old and New Business

Fr. John requested a volunteer to take the minutes. The current Secretary, Margaret LoGerfo, volunteered, **Pat offered the Motion to accept Secretary**, second by Nancy Hall, all approved.

Fr. John asked if everyone reviewed the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes. **Reader George Motioned to accept the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes**, second by Kathy Parrish, all approved.

Fr. John presented the **Report of the Rector** and reviewed the key events and celebrations of the past year. The Parish grieved the loss of our beloved Father and Parish founder, Fr. Daniel Hubiak, our beloved and gentle Deacon Stephen Hall, and long suffering Parish friend Monk Christian Lesinsky.

In August we were blessed by the attendance of Metropolitan Tikhon at the 20th Anniversary Celebration of our Founding,

The review of the metrics showed a decline in average Church attendance from 85 to 81, although Nissa Nancy reported today's attendance at 98. Marian asked about the official membership census Fr. John stated it stands at 55 and not including children under 18.

Fr. John expressed his gratitude to the many members who donated their time and energy to special events and projects in the past year. He acknowledged the entire Liturgical team, Anne Rowe's work on youth education, additional special events for Church youth, and fellowship meetings that continued in one form or another throughout 2021 despite CoVid restrictions. Many thanks to outgoing Council members and especially to Fr. Joseph and Mat. Annice for all their support during the year. We are also grateful for the ongoing financial stewardship of our members and friends that enabled us to end the year \$8,500 in the black and approximately \$85,000 in contributions for improvements and charity.

Don mentioned another highlight in 2021, Fr. John's elevation to Archpriest by His Beatitude during our 20th anniversary celebration in August.

Cecilia, our Senior Warden, presented her report and expressed her thanks for the opportunity to serve our Church and strengthen her Faith by working with Fr. John. She particularly thanked Ella Parsells for her many hours of excellent work live-streaming our services for the benefit of members unable to attend in person. She also praised the consistent support provided by Barbara Kaloroumakis for the many events that require dining and refreshment coordination, particularly the social hour following Liturgy. Father, in turn, mentioned the important role of the Senior Warden in cultivating a sense of peace within the Church community.

Don Rowe, Junior Warden, presented his report. He reviewed some of the 2021 accomplishments including the keyless door locks, LED lightbulb installation, the deep dive clean in August, replacement of the gutter guards, and soft clean of the tiled roof.

The Church recently purchased an anti-choking device which has two pump attachments enabling it to remove obstructions in children as well as adults. The device is discarded after use but the company will replace it for free.

Going forward this year, Don reviewed the estimates for the repair and resealing of our parking lot and driveway which range from \$15,000 to \$18,000. The company with the lowest estimate will work with us to hold that estimate for a few months until the weather improves. It was pointed out we do not have those funds in our budget and must consider separate fundraising for this project. Similarly, we are expecting estimates to be presented in the near future for needed roof repair. We can anticipate a fundraising campaign for this project as well. We plan to stretch out these repairs so we are not bearing too much expense at one time. Fr. John expressed his appreciation for Don's many hours of research and analysis on these improvements and for his many clear presentations regarding future projects.

Rachael presented the Treasurer's report and thanked the many members of our church who have inspired her with their financial and volunteer support to our Church. The various reports were presented online, and Rachael clarified some line item descriptions. Reader George asked about Church Article Income which relates to the donation of a Gospel. There was additional clarification on the contributions considered as member stewardship, memorial gifts, or donations from visitors. Fr. John pointed out Rachael did an excellent job after assuming the Treasurer's role mid year. The Secretary noted that she and the other weekly collection counters greatly appreciate Rachael's impressive organization of our collection records.

Gabriela and Georgianne presented the Auditor's Report. This consists of examining the collection records and performing various tests to verify the balances, bank deposits, and accuracy of our stewardship records. Included in the report are a number of suggestions and constructive observations on how the records could be made more consistent and complete. These will be individually reviewed and a decision will be forthcoming on the incorporation of these recommendations to our existing procedures. Fr. John called for a motion, **Reader George made the motion to accept the Auditor's report**, second by Ellen, all approved.

Fr. John reviewed Project Illumination, a memorial for Fr Daniel, whose one year memorial was celebrated just yesterday. The project collected \$40,000 and the total cost to date was \$35,000.

Crosses for our roof have been ordered and will be installed this April. In addition, we expect our entrance sign and landscaping should also be installed in April. Michele mentioned the importance of a welcoming sign on Carey Road, since a great deal of traffic passes our entrance on the way to Rt. 113N.

Several members asked about the design and progress of the mosaics planned for the sign, entrance way, and courtyard walls. Mirona, our artisan, brought a finished mosaic for all of us to enjoy and to help us understand what the symbols will look like once completed. The entrance sign will be completed first and the very important and detailed Icon Made Without Hands at the top of the gateway will be last installed. Mirona anticipates the work will move along more quickly now that the first mosaic has been completed. Nancy asked when the crosses will be installed. They have been ordered and should be installed at the entrance and the Parish Center in April. Some discussion ensued with regard to using two bar instead of three bar crosses more consistent with our current Byzantine architectural theme. All agreed the appearance of our Church will be enhanced as we move toward the completion of these projects. Michele asked about the significance of the Icon Made Without Hands to our Church and Father John explained that it is a welcoming icon that has its feast day on the same day we celebrate the anniversary of the founding of Christ the Savior.

Fr. John read the Long Term Planning Statement approved in 2019 announcing our goal to build a new Church. He clarified that contributions to the Building Fund cannot be moved into Operating without the approval of the Council. In 2022 we expect to complete the wetlands investigation with funds already on hand for that purpose. There will also be a need to expand the septic system in the future. Father indicated we have received good cooperation from local authorities, with no restrictions on cutting trees, however we need to settle on the exact location of the future Temple. The Long Term Planning Committee (LTPC) will begin working on a timeline this year. Tom Mathews has experience working out these details and observed this process requires some patience. Fr John invited all interested Church members to volunteer for the LTPC; the Church membership is always invited to attend these meetings.

With regard to the Budget, the Priest and the Treasurer work together to create a Draft Budget by September which is then reviewed by the Council. Today we will ask for commentary and answer questions. Once approved, the Budget it is submitted for review to His Beatitude.

Fr. John noted that Stewardship is not modified or increased in the 2022 Budget because that comes from the Parish. Rdr. Nick inquired about the line item for the accounting expense, which covers the subscription for Quickbooks software. There was clarification on this year's 5.9% COLA (cost of living adjustment) increase for Fr. John so that members would understand that this is in fact not a salary increase.

Fr. John brought attention to the \$2500 line item for the Choir. The Choir Directors spend many hours working with the Choir and their work requires acknowledgement. Rdr. Nick, one of our Choir Directors, felt the money should be used for the replacement of music stands, purchase of additional music, supplies, etc. because our Directors don't expect compensation. Father acknowledged that there are many ministries within a church that are performed for the benefit of the church without expectation for compensation, but Choir Directors are typically compensated even if they choose to return the money to the Church. There will be additional discussion with the Choir and the Choir Directors on this proposal.

Regarding the Budget's bottom line \$6,000 deficit, it was pointed out that the Director(s) may not choose to be compensated, the expense line items are usually over-budgeted, and generally each year stewardship increases.

Motion to Accept Budget: Reader George proposed a motion to accept the Budget after raising the stewardship level to offset the \$6,000 deficit in the draft budget. Tom seconded it and it was approved by all.

Fr. John brought up the need to replace retiring members of the Council. The following church members were nominated for position on the Council for 2022:

Justin DeArmitt
Beth Dunbar
Joe Dunbar
Barbara Kaloroumakis
Georgianne Mathews
Tom Mathews

Ginny made a motion to approve the new members, second by George, and all approved.

Old and New Business

Don briefly reviewed the estimates for the repair and resealing of the most deteriorated sections of the driveway and parking. If motion is approved the Council will decide on the final selection of the contractor. Mat. Emily expressed the hope that with proper supervision this project will be handled in a more complete and professional manner than the last repair.

Motion to repair the driveway made by Barbara, second by Joanne Patrick, all approved.

Reader George announced a Lenten Retreat to be held at Christ the Savior on the weekend of April 2-3. Reader George will coordinate the Retreat, led by Fr. Andrew Damick. An invitation to attend the Retreat may be extended to other churches. He also mentioned that he is looking for volunteers to assist him with the making of Koliva, which is served at memorial services.

Fr. John thanked Cami Milite and her husband, Jerry, for the donation of the delicious pizza we enjoyed at this Meeting.

Fr. John called for a motion to adjourn, **Cecilia moved to adjourn,** second by Don, all approved. The Annual Meeting was closed with a prayer by Fr. John at 12:25.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Juliana, Secretary