

Christ the Savior Orthodox Church
4th Quarter Parish Council Meeting
December 11, 2022

Fr. John opened the meeting with a prayer at 11:35.

IN ATTENDANCE:

*Rector: Fr. John Parsells

*Council: Ginny Borodulia, Joanne Bushman, Justin DeArmitt, Beth Keller Dunbar, Chad Fortin, Barbara Kaloroumakis, Margaret LoGerfo, Georgianne Mathews, Tom Mathews, Pat McAlpin, Marian Ridge, Anne Rowe, Don Rowe.

*Also attending: Mirona Bendfeldt, Amy Fortin, Vera Yevsukov

Fr. John called for the **approval of the 3rd quarter minutes**. Pat moved to accept. Tom seconded the motion. All approved.

Fr. John presented the Rector's Report. The mosaics for Project Illumination are nearing completion and the Gateway Made Without Hands Icon is completed and ready for shipment. As soon as the weather becomes more suitable for installation, Project Illumination will draw to a close. Father warmly thanked all who have contributed to this Project.

Our attendance has nearly tripled from our early days and is holding at 90 even in the off-season.

There is no report from the Long Term Planning Commission.

There was no report from the **Senior Warden**.

Don presented the **Junior Warden report**. The **Parish Hall renovation** is moving forward and there have been two meetings with the contractor. The old grill equipment will be removed and a seal will be placed on the chimney before the shelf installation. The doors will be redwood plywood and stained to match the existing kitchen cabinets. The doors will be on sliding rollers, similar to barn doors but without the bulky above door hardware.

Motion: **Chad moved for approval** on this project, Beth second, and all approved.

Barbara presented the **Treasurer's Report**. All Council members are encouraged to study the financial reports in detail in preparation for the Annual Meeting and approval of the 2023 budget. There is a sheet dedicated to earmarked account donations and an update on the funds

spent. Father John pointed to several factors leading us to end the year in the \$10K red after starting in the black. Principal reason has been substantial repair and maintenance expenses. Stewardship has been steady and beautification projects have been funded by donors. This month will be challenging due to insurance expenses which are expected to increase going forward. During 2022 the church changed the way it reimbursed our Priest for his medical and dental bills. These have accumulated during the year and we will be reimbursing him this month.

Tom suggested we try to set aside money for these insurance expenses in the future as all expense are likely to increase during these difficult economic times.

Ginny asked if there was a resolution in the form of compensation for the Choir Director position. It has been resolved to report her compensation on a 1099 in accordance with her status as an independent contractor. Alexis will be responsible for proper documentation of income. Most recent analysis of her current compensation based on hours worked was \$3.70 hour.

Motion to accept the recommendation on Choir Director compensation made by Margaret, second by Georgianne and approved.

Barbara further described the new sheet on earmarked projects and improved reporting regarding incoming and outgoing funds. This will help understand the status of projects.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report made by Justin, second by Chad, approved.

Beth reported on the **Outreach Committee**. The tear-off flyers are ready for distribution. Father will be sending out Christmas cards. Beth is looking to install outside signs in Spring when weather improves. We are always looking for more greeters and new members are welcomed on the Outreach Committee.

Marian inquired about the illumination of the new the entrance sign. Father explained that when completed all the signs and mosaics at the front entrance will be illuminated.

The **New Business** portion of the meeting touched on **Council Membership** and focused on **Budget** discussions. Father pointed out we will have 3 Parish Council vacancies. If you are thinking about proposing a candidate please talk to Father John first. It is important to fill these positions because we require 8 to10 Council members for the counting of collections. For that reason Father requests members inform him if they wish to resign before the end of your 3 year term.

Father explained that the 2023 budget will continue to accept modifications until it is passed at the Annual Meeting. We need to review all of the 2022 data during this process. Father reminded us that despite the deficit due to this year's \$40K to \$50K in maintenance expenses, such as HVAC, culverts, parking, we are doing better than many other churches.

Discussion ensued regarding a variety of topics including examining budget line items for potential savings, how to stay united while facing economic challenges, possible options for fundraising, the OCA assessment, and prayerfully seeking guidance from the Lord regarding the way forward.

Father suggested that we communicate clearly as to the primary cause of our problems, which is an unusual high number of maintenance expenses. Don and Father John reminded everyone that the maintenance projects of 2022 were absolutely necessary and that going forward we will certainly have more, though it is not statistically probable that we will have the same level of projects as in the current year. Tom suggested a maintenance savings account. It was explained that we have a \$1K line item in the budget each year to save for maintenance expenses, however, that goal could not be met this year and that line item should be increased as possible going forward.

The Council meeting preceding the Annual Meeting will hopefully bring some resolution on budget line items. Barbara indicated she will circulate all the end of year data to Council members to assist in budget discussions. Anne asked if the upcoming meeting will be accessible on Zoom and Father said requests for Zoom access will be honored to encourage participation.

Father suggested Jan 22nd be the **Council Meeting** to finalize the preparations for the **Annual Meeting**. January 29th will be Annual meeting, with February 5th reserved as a possible snow date for the Annual Meeting. **Justin proposed the motion for the meeting dates**, second by Don, approved.

At Father's request **Joanne made a motion to adjourn**, second by Justin, approved. The meeting was closed with a prayer by Father John at 1:00.

In Christ,
Margaret Juliana, Secretary