
Christ the Savior Orthodox Church
Parish Council Meeting
Sunday December 15, 2024

The meeting was opened with a prayer led by Fr. John at approximately 11:50 AM.

IN ATTENDANCE:

- *Rector:* Fr. John Parsells
- *Parish Council:* Georgianne Mathews, *Senior Warden*, Cheryl Kokkinos, *Junior Warden*, Ioana Davidson, *Treasurer*, Justin DeArmitt, Zach Davidson, *filling in as Secretary*, Beth Dunbar, Joseph Dunbar, Edward Hill, Thomas Mathews, Marian Ridge, Cecilia Wyant.
- *Parish Members:* Nancy Hall, Adrienne Slate, Joanne Bushman, Taylor Applegarth, Andrew Wu, Daria Parsells, Rdr. David Drobish, Ryan Harris & Chrissy Harris.

AGENDA:

1. Review of Previous Minutes
2. Rector's Report
3. Wardens' Reports
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Other Reports
6. Old Business
7. New Business
8. Next Parish Council Meeting

Volunteers were called on to fill in as Secretary in the absence of Vera Yevsukov, Zach Davidson volunteered.

Motion to accept: Joanne

Second: Cheryl

Vote: All in favor

1. Review of Previous Minutes

The parish council members reviewed the minutes of the Oct. 27th meeting.

Motion to accept the minutes: Beth

Second: Tom

Vote: All in favor

2. Rector's Report

Fr. John distributed hard copies of the rector's report and presented the following information, not covered in his written report:

- Father reported that increased stewardship has eliminated the deficit in the budget and the Parish's budget is back on track. Many thanks to God's faithful stewards! Glory be to God!

3. Wardens' Reports

Neither the Senior Warden nor the Junior Warden had a report to make at this time.

4. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer distributed hard copies of the treasurer's report and highlighted the following information:

- Father explained about the roughly \$10,000 difference in health insurance that has been distributed versus what is budgeted for. That money hasn't been reimbursed to Father yet.
- Georgianne asked how specific things become earmarked and Ioana explained that any donation can be earmarked and set aside for anything specific that the donator requests. Either write the earmark on the memo line or on the envelope and that donation will only be used for what it is earmarked for. Quickbooks makes this very easy.
- Ioana suggests showing balances for all earmarked funds on the spreadsheets, both the yearly P&L and on a multi-year balance sheet that will be developed with Father.

Motion to accept the Treasure's Report: Beth

Second: Cecelia

Vote: All in favor

5. Other Reports

- Tom and Father discuss progress and plans for the Long Term Planning Committee (LTPC). No report yet. Short-term plans of conducting a survey with parishioners for construction of a new church and finding a site plan designer. Plan to have a report from the committee for the next annual meeting.
- Father John was contacted by Christos Kamages with CJK Design. This designer is also working on a project with Fr. Christopher at St. George. The committee will consider this proposal as well as that of other designers.
- Father John will share virtual tours from Orthodox 360 to provide examples of how other churches are built.
- Tom and Father will schedule an upcoming meeting for the LTPC in the very near future.
- Possibilities for use of the multipurpose room are discussed. Do we need a long/big table and chairs? Since there will be a lending library and small bookstore, should we have more comfortable seating that would take up less room? A meeting will be

scheduled to hash out the details and make a decision for the best way to move forward. If you have a preference, please attend the meeting that will be scheduled.

6. Old Business

- 2025 Budget draft will be sent to our future “Finance Committee.” Volunteers are sought for participation in the committee. Please reach out if you have a desire or willingness to help by serving on the committee.
- Our budget is back on track and no longer in deficit. Therefore, 2024 projections will be updated.
- 2024 stewardship levels will be carried over to 2025. However, costs increase and therefore a \$10,000 deficit is projected in the 2025 budget.
- Rdr. David asked if other avenues could be tapped into for additional revenue. Things have been tried in the past, but traditionally at CTS, stewardship has accounted for the vast majority of revenue and we have to plan on that remaining the same. Suggestions, however, are welcome for increased revenue. The benefit, however, must outweigh the resources that go into implementation of any fundraisers.
- The wine budget looks off, but it is a timing issue and there is a surplus of wine on hand. It is balanced out.
- Georgianne asked if we should be budgeting for unanticipated expenses, specifically R&M issues including HVAC, appliances, leaks, etc. Father explained that would increase the operating deficit and we were finally just able to work out of a current deficit. The question is always one of priorities.
- Edward called for a plan to introduce future and upcoming needs of the church to the parish. We should make everyone aware that the HVAC will need updating in the near future. The Junior Warden, Cheryl, will develop a maintenance report to outline the future needs of the Church. This will go out quarterly.
- Ioana stressed again that donations can be earmarked for anything specific, so parishioners can donate funds for anything they want, including HVAC, kitchen appliances or any other R&M contingency fund.
- The question is asked, “How can we build a new church if we can’t meet budgeted expenses?” Father John explained that our new church will be built by God’s providence. Just as the current CTS property was paid for by God and his faithful stewards, even though we struggled to meet operating expenses, so too will a new church be built.
- Ioana suggests a budgeted advertising fund of \$300 as a new line item for the Outreach Committee. It turns out Chrissy Harris works with Facebook advertising and can help in regard to reaching more new people. Ioana also suggests fliers in the Convention Center in Ocean City. There is a general consensus for this.
- Father brings up the All-American Council that will be held in Phoenix, AZ in 2025. Father needs to go, as will one layperson from the Church. Can the Church provide funding for the priest (if necessary) and the layperson to go to the council? It would be \$3,000.
- A motion is called for to add 2 new line items to the budget: 1). \$300 for advertising, and 2). \$3,000 for the All-American Council.

Motion to accept the new line items: Cecelia

Second: Marion

Vote: All in favor

- We need to start planning for the 25th anniversary of CTS. We will reach out to people and start planning events. People agree that responsibilities and expectations need to be developed and delegated. Committee heads and the Parish Council will work with Father John and the parish to develop ideas and keep everyone informed of what will be taking place.

7. New Business

- Tax Filing. Will the Church agree to jump from 1 employee to multiple employees and filing payroll tax reports for employees? Specifically for Alexis DeArmitt, *Choir Director*, to move from an independent contractor to an employee of CTS. Ioana, professionally, is in a good place to help with this transition and ensure the change happens smoothly.
- Ioana ensures that with Quickbooks it is clear, concise monthly filing of payroll at a minimal cost. It is clearer tax filing, the only con is that it is filing more taxes. Can the budget be updated with this to help Alexis?
- Everyone agrees in favor of doing this to help Alexis who, all in attendance agree, does so much to help the Church.

8. Next Parish Council Meeting

Sunday January 19th 2025 was proposed as the date for the next Parish Council meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Joe

Second: Edward

Vote: All in favor

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer led by Fr. John at 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Zach Davidson