

**Parish Council Meeting  
January 12, 2022  
Remote Zoom Meeting**

**Roll Call**

**Parish Council Members Present:** Donna Dimitri, Sergio Georgi, Christine Dardaris, Davit Jishkariani, Nilda Salavachi, Zachary Smith, Reem Tarazi

**Clergy:** Father Giorgi

**Sunday School Director:** Amy Lewis

**Choir:** N/A

**Auxiliary Members Present:** Steve Coraluzzi, Linda Croke, Peter Ghicondey, Linda Notskas,

**Meeting opened with prayer at 7:06 pm**

**Secretary's Report (reported by Reem Tarazi)**

Reem presented the minutes from the December 2021 meeting. Christine moved to accept minutes as presented and Sergio seconded. Davit abstained. Motion passed.

Reem also shared information about recent donations and notes of appreciation. Fr. Giorgi offered to send a thank you email to parishioners who have pledged to the church. Council expressed appreciation.

**Treasurer's Report (reported by Zachary Smith)**

At end of December 2021:

- Checking account over \$37,000; Investment account at about \$281,000
- Update on pledges
  - 104 new *or increased* pledges achieved (84 unique pledgers, which is less than prior year, but this also includes some new pledgers)
  - Received \$57,060, which is more than total pledge amount and more than budgeted amount
  - \$2860 pledged amount outstanding
  - Drive resulted in 36 pledges and over \$15,000 dollars
- Icon auction
  - \$11,700 received.
  - We are short on icon bids <\$2000. Zach will send out reminder out.
- End of year investment statement presented
  - Made almost \$24,000 from investment
  - Investment manager lowered payment from 1.5% to 1.0%
- Notable income: many pledges; some generous donations from non-parishioners; Christmas donations exceeded budgeted amount
- Notable expenses: none this month
- Church in surplus this year
- Zach presented budget and actual expenses
  - We exceeded many of our income goals
  - We did not have many unexpected expenses

- Davit asked about investment account which grew about 11% which seems lower than expected given general market this year; Zach will send detailed report for Davit to review; Donna explained that we have moderate risk investments
- Nilda started discussion about how to ensure we collect outstanding icon bids. Zach will share list with council so people can personally contact anyone they know well if comfortable.
- Nilda asked for clarification on how “parishioner donations” are defined. Zach explained how he distinguishes donations from candles/collections.

Reem moved to accept the report, seconded by Nilda. Zach abstained. Motion passed.

### **Sunday School Report (reported by Amy Lewis)**

- Sunday School will start back up this Sunday
- Amy wants to see what attendance is like to make a solid plan but for now, will plan to have one teacher at a time for all children and then grow the curriculum and classes from there.
- Theme will be to discuss how children might deal with real-world problems and questions, which can be appropriate for all age groups.
- Discussed plan for mask wearing during class.
- Thank you, Amy, for all your hard work!
- Christine reported still missing background checks for 5 Sunday School teachers. Amy will help Christine follow-up with teachers.

### **Father Giorgi Report**

- 3 baptisms since last meeting and 2 more anticipated
- Only 2 house blessings this month and several home visits for spiritual care
- We reportedly have a relic of the Holy Cross in the church. Fr. Giorgi proposes we develop a plan to venerate the relic to draw people from around the area and country to the church. Council discussed several ideas on how to move forward (e.g., share with parishioners, seek information, plan for veneration) as well as concerns (e.g., risk of theft, authenticity). After discussion, council decided we will reach out to parishioners to obtain information about the presumed relic and its origin and go from there.

### **Chairperson Report (presented by Donna Dimitri)**

- A representative for our new insurance company, Goodville, came out to inspect our church. Noted sidewalk in front of church cracked. Nothing else noted. Donna emailed the report to Parish Council. Will address this issue in the spring.
- The Archdiocese is moving forward with assisting Father Giorgi as he applies for his green card and R-1 Visa. Thank you to those who wrote letter of support. Father Giorgi and Donna met with the attorney last Friday to go over the paperwork. Should be filed with the Department of Homeland security in the next week or so. The Albanian Archdiocese is paying for the attorney fees.

- Coffee Hour. No one has signed up for the next couple of months. We will supply donuts/bagels/ light snacks for the coming weeks. Many people who attend the Divine Liturgy look forward to coming upstairs so we will continue to offer the coffee hour.
- Christmas decorations taken down this past Sunday.
- The sexual harassment policy has been emailed. Please sign the sheet at the candle stand when you come to church.

### **Technology Report (reported by Sergio Georgi)**

- Choir is in loft now, so livestream set up in upstairs hall
- We are OK with data using combination of phones and modems
- 93 subscribers on channel
- 17-18 viewers last week
- Some issues with main server at church in recent weeks; if have problems, please report to give Sergio time to resolve problem
- Everything zipped and archived from 2021 and everything archived on website from last decade (e.g., meetings, messengers)
- We use paypal and square to accept payments, which have fees
  - paypal introduced ways to include service charges and fees to buyer so anyone who makes payments can choose to accept charges
  - for Square machine payments at church, have to manually add fees for person to pay; if buy online, service charges are added automatically
- Sergio asked for list of items we sell that can be added to online form; Donna will ask Linda Notskas to do so
- Nilda asked about plan to post pictures of parish council members on website. Sergio recommended no personal information be included on Website due to hacks and people with ill intentions

### **Old Business**

- Covid update
  - Wonderful compliance with encouragement for mask wearing in church
  - Many choosing to go upstairs for coffee hour
  - Will continue to update plan
- Icon auction
  - Have been receiving icons slowly
  - Auction date TBD
  - Discussed several ideas for icon auction this year. Will revisit.
  - Reminders will be put out to return icons
- Women's day dance
  - On hold for now and will revisit next month but unlikely to happen this year
- Reminders for home blessings have been put in messenger

### **New Business**

- Goals for 2022 shared by parish council members
  - Goals include: internal beautification (e.g., painting), home blessings at least from parish council members, increased altar servers/child attendance, more physical and financial support from council to charity/benevolence efforts, increased overall church attendance/participation and services on Saturdays and feast days, educational meetings
- Christine brought up discussion about recent attendance of individuals who may pose a risk to parishioners or the church. We discussed how we might manage/de-escalate a problematic situation and/or ensure safety of parishioners if needed.

**Next Parish Council monthly meeting scheduled for Monday February 7 at 7:30pm.**

**The meeting adjourned at 9:35 with a closing prayer from Father Giorgi.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Reem Tarazi