

**Parish Council Meeting
May 17, 2021
Remote Zoom Meeting**

Roll Call

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

Clergy: Father Dennis

Sunday School Director: Steve Coraluzzi

Auxiliary Members Present: Linda Biando, Peter Ghicondey, Linda Notskas

Meeting opened with prayer at 7:10 pm

Secretary's Report

Reem Tarazi presented the minutes from the April 2021 meeting. Zach moved to accept minutes as presented and Sergio seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report (reported by Zachary Smith)

At end of April 2021:

- Checking account around \$41,000; investment account around \$250,000
- Increase in pledges received to 47 and monies collected from pledges to \$13,625
- More icon bids and payments received from the Palm Sunday Icon Auction. The Icon amount pledged this year stands at \$13,220.
- Annual budget in Powerchurch was not accurate reflection of approved budget from October 2020 meeting, so Zach corrected annual budget column accordingly on Powerchurch
 - So we are actually much closer to meeting goals for the year, since we approved budget cuts
- Zach presented income and expense statements
- Pascha donations around \$3600 as of end April (about \$4200 as of this meeting)
 - Campaign did not gain a lot of traction this year
 - A lot of people donated via square but did not use the campaign link
 - We are behind amount budgeted for Pascha donations
- Discussion about whether \$18 fee for square is worth it; board member input suggested this fee nominal and not a concern
- No atypical expenses to report
- We are \$30,834 in black and in better position than at this time last year

Reem moved to accept the report, seconded by Davit. Motion passed.

Zach reported we have about \$45,000 in checking account and only one large expense coming up. He proposed moving \$25,000 of this into the investment account. Council members agreed and Zach will transfer the money.

Father Dennis Report

Nothing to report

Chairperson Report (presented by Donna Dimitri)

1. Father Nikodhim sent an email which Donna sent to Council with a possible priest candidate. He prefers not to reveal the candidate's name at this time. Donna will speak with the candidate and appropriate diocese to determine if he is a viable candidate for St. Johns.

2. Metropolitan Tikhon has given his blessing for Jimmy George and his fiancée, Michelle Barry to use our church for their wedding on September 18th, 2021. Father Dennis will work out details with the priest who will marry them.
3. Building project – new windows in the church sanctuary. Still doing research on the windows. Most likely this project will be pushed to next year as building supplies are so expensive at this time. Received a quote of almost \$1900.00 for a triple casement window. Normally that window would be around \$1300.00. Met with Brian – Mulroybay Construction on April 23rd to discuss the windows in the church hall as well as the downspouts from the main roof to the lower roof. He will prepare and estimate for the downspouts.
4. Albanian Archdiocese will have their quarterly meeting on Thursday, May 27th. All council members invited to attend the Zoom meeting. Information will be sent as soon as it is received.
5. Saturday, June 26, 2021 12:00 – 3:00 pm Father Arthur Liolin’s portrait will be unveiled at the Cathedral in Boston. Father Arthur was the longtime Chancellor of the Albanian Archdiocese. Contact Audra Sullivan audra.saintgeorgecathedral@gmail.com if interested in attending. Information will be sent to our parishioners. Donations to the Student Fund in honor of Father Arthur.
6. Discussion of final Pascha and Covid – 19 protocols are under Old Business.

Sunday School Report (reported by Steve Coraluzzi)

- Lazarus Saturday service well attended and 6 children attended event in church hall. Older youth joined Charity and Benevolence Committee to support the food and clothing drive.
- Steve announced that this is his last year serving as Sunday School director after 20-year commitment to the Sunday School program.
 - Please consider who might take over as Sunday School director and share your thoughts/ideas.
- Donna indicated we will get a group of people together to look through materials in the Sunday school and put things together for the start of next year.

Technology Report (reported by Sergio Georgi)

- Sergio completed detailed documentation of procedures for livestreaming and this document is available with the equipment so others can step in and help out if needed/interested
- Because of extra streams we consumed a lot of data in April/May so no data currently available; new data available tomorrow
- Time for data cleanup, which Sergio will take care of to free up space on server
- Linda Notskas initiated discussion about whether livestreaming would continue indefinitely. Many council members presented benefits to continuing livestream despite concern from some that there may be less people attending church in person if livestream is available. Decision is to continue livestream.
- Discussion about whether to continue with online signup form, which was renewed until July. After discussion, decision to remove online sign-up form from website, indicate on website that advanced signup no longer required, and continue to keep list of attendees who come to church for contact tracing, if necessary

Old Business

- Altar server robes: project slightly delayed, but Fr. Dennis will return to project soon
- Pascha summary:
 - Per Fr. Dennis, went very well under circumstances
 - Linda Notskas and Zach shared that Holy Friday service was beautiful
 - Attendees reflected on attendance, processions, and outdoor service

- Next steps for COVID health/safety plan
 - Will not require advanced online signup anymore
 - Will continue to keep name and contact information of in-person attendees
 - City of Philadelphia: current 50% capacity allowed and 3 foot distancing; on June 11 these restrictions go away except for masking regulations
 - Parish council discussed mask wearing policy in church
 - Different opinions shared about whether we should continue mask wearing regardless of guidelines/mandates
 - Fr. Dennis indicated that we need to follow decision of the Metropolitan
 - For now, we will continue to require masks and will meet and discuss when any new guidelines/regulations are provided by archdiocese and/or city to discuss next steps
 - No temperatures will be taken anymore
 - Will move choir to the back of church and eventually invite others to re-join choir
 - Service books and prayer cards are back in the pews

New Business

- Linda Notskas suggested having prayer cards with Lord's Prayer in Albanian and English
 - Davit suggested replacing existing cards and putting all 3 prayers in both languages. Donna and Davit will work on this.
- Reem proposed idea that we could consider how to spend extra money this year for charity given our current financial status. Council members encouraged to consider ideas and bring them to discuss at next meeting.

The next Parish Council meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 9, at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 with a closing prayer from Father Dennis.

Respectfully submitted,
Reem Tarazi