

St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church  
Semi-Annual Parish Meeting  
November 7, 2021

The meeting opened with a prayer from Father Giorgi at 11:55 a.m.

#### *Election of Parish Council*

All existing council members have volunteered to continue serving. Stephanie Kosta moved to elect the slate, seconded by Elena Shomos. The motion carried without opposition or abstention.

#### *Secretary's report*

Donna Dimitri gave the secretary's report in Reem Tarazi's absence. Stephanie Kosta moved to accept the report as presented, seconded by Davit Jishkariani. The motion carried without opposition or abstention.

#### *Treasurer's report*

Zachary Smith presented the projected budget for the upcoming year. Stephanie Kosta objected to a budget that relied on drawing on the investment account. Donna Dimitri countered that in the end we have never had to draw on the investment account but Council must present a balanced budget. Ilirijan Papa wanted to know the average pledge amount. Karen Kane moved to accept the budget as presented. Spartak Brahollari seconded the motion. Susan Melnik suggested providing the amount needed per capita for a balanced budget without a draw on the investment account. The motion carried with Stephanie Kosta voting no.

#### *Priest's report*

Father Giorgi reported on his assignment and going through a period of adjustment with his family in a new place. He emphasized the feeling of the church as one family. He noted the challenge of increasing attendance especially as the pandemic abates. He mentioned that several baptisms took place in October and November 2021. Father Giorgi has begun doing vesperal services on the final Saturday of every month. The Parish Nameday is scheduled for November 14, there will be vespers on November 13 at 5pm. Father Giorgi also wanted to continue sending voice messages and hopes they are helpful. He indicated wanting to have feedback from parishioners and plans for monthly educational meetings, although he needs to prioritize his family. There were no questions and Donna Dimitri emphasized that Father Giorgi is always available for parishioner concerns.

#### *Sunday School report*

Amy Lewis gave the report in her capacity as the new Sunday School director. There are not quite enough children to have more than two classes. Amy would like to build up a syllabus that can be used over and over. Until December, the theme is Christ in the Old Testament. There has been good attendance so far but we need to encourage more participation. The Harry Potter Halloween party had 25 students attend compared to the usual 10. There will be an icon-making activity as well. Amy would like to begin movie nights at the church when safe to do so.

#### *Technology report*

Sergio Giorgi gave the technology report. He has worked on enhancement of the live stream. As of the semi-annual meeting, there are 85 subscribers to the church YouTube channel. Sergio is looking for volunteers to assist in the live stream.

*Chairperson report Donna Dimitri*

1. We were very fortunate to have Metropolitan Tikhon bless and assign Father Giorgi to our parish. We look forward to many years with Father Giorgi and his lovely family.
2. Thank you to our Parish Council for agreeing to serve another year. We have a wonderful and vibrant council with many terrific ideas. Our auxiliary council is very involved in our meeting and helping to get things done around the church.
3. We are slowly getting back to pre-covid attendance. Last Sunday we had 22 kids come to church for the Halloween party. Many thanks to Paula Bendo for her hard work organizing the party and purchasing all of the goodies!
4. Building project – new windows in the church sanctuary. We spoke about this project at the March meeting. It was postponed until next year as the cost of lumber and the windows greatly increased due to supply chain issues. Will report again at the spring meeting.
5. We received a partial payment for the new church hall air conditioner. The air conditioner has not yet been installed. The insurance company will forward the balance when the installation is complete.
6. We are in compliance with the Archdiocese and OCA as far as PSP (Prevention of Sexual Misconduct) and background checks. Sunday school is in the process of conducting background checks on the Sunday school teachers. Thank you, Christine Dardaris and Amy Lewis, for taking care of this project.

*Old Business*

None raised.

*New Business*

None raised.

Father Giorgi closed the meeting with a prayer at 12:41 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Elena Shomos