

**MINUTES OF THE SEMI-ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - MARCH 24, 2019**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**

Father Brooks Ledford opened the meeting with prayer.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Donna Dimitri. Donna welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes were presented by Michele Lorimer. The proposed 2019 budget, which was distributed on 10/14/2018 and also discussed at the budget meeting, were presented and approved. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Elena Shomos. Nilda Salavachi seconded the motion, all were in favor.

**Treasurer's Report:** Nilda Salavachi  
No formal report was presented. Talked and explained PayPal, Smile, Amazon and the percentage that goes to the church.

**Committee/Other Reports:**

- 1) **Stewardship Committee** - Stephanie Kosta
  - We are having a downward trend in pledges made. Very concerned - it cannot continue. Also, people did not pay the amount they bid on icons. This year \$4,000.00 decrease pledged for icons.
  - \$60,000.00 is needed to keep the church running. Lack of "increasing" pledges is a major problem. Stephanie will match the increase in the contributions if you have previously given \$400.00 or less.
  - A parishioner asked why fewer people in church, used to be packed, what happened? Board needs to address this issue.
- 2) **Sunday School** - Steve Coraluzzi
  - All has been well this year. Next event is Lazarus Saturday, a great day and very educational.
  - Could we get involved in having "Albanian" lessons involving Sunday school somehow. Important to keep traditions. Awhile back we tried to arise an interest in this, but we failed. Board will discuss.
- 3) **Charity & Benevolence** - Sandy Fiss
  - Next event with the homeless, Sat. March 30th. Need donations and sandwiches - you can make at home and bring to donate, PB&J.
- 4) **Nick Naum Scholarship** - Nicole Ferrara
  - All seniors should apply, if you attend church regularly or are a part of Nick's family. \$2,000.00 scholarship - If interested apply, get forms and all information on church website.

**Pastor's Report:** Father Brooks

- 1) **New Skete Monastery trip** - very helpful to him and Bob. Hopes to get the YAL group

there.

- 2) YAL Group is doing great.
- 3) High School - Father wishes there were more in attendance, but they are all great.
- 4) "People talk about him behind his back" - wish they would come to him with their concerns. "He loves us all!"

**Chairperson Report:** Donna Dimitri

- 1) New Pamphlets - we have pamphlets for Marriage, Baptism and Memorials. They are located in the front vestibule pamphlet stand. Many thanks to Sergio for putting these together.
- 2) Participation - Encourage you to participate in your church. Attend the Divine Liturgy on Sundays, Pre-sanctified Liturgy during Lent, Parish Council meetings, Charity & Benevolence events, dances. Get involved!
- 3) Sexual Misconduct Policy - you may or may not know that all Sunday school teachers, members of parish council, priest and readers have to have criminal background checks performed. We are in compliance with the OCA and our Archdiocesan policies. My thanks to Fiori Papa for administering this program.
- 4) Church Sign - Council has formed a committee headed by Linda Notskas & Janice Leyden. They are looking into obtaining a new sign for the church. We should be moving on this project in the next couple of months.
- 5) Church Directory - The last directory was distributed in 2017. We will be requesting updated information for the 2019 directory. If you want to update your photo or did not have a photo this will be your opportunity to send one.
- 6) Building Update - The project we have been talking about for the past 5 years is about to begin.

Historical - in July 2017 we received a quote for 10 large gothic windows and 2 small gothic windows. Marvin windows \$112,000.00 Install was estimated at \$5,000.00 per window. Original estimate for this project was \$175,000.00.

Today - Quote from Home DePot for the gothic window \$5,700.00. Need 9 large Windows total \$51,300.00. Quote for small gothic window \$3,500.00 need 2 windows total \$7,000.00. They are located in the closets at the 17th street end of the church Total \$58,000.00.

Janice Leyden made a motion to authorize a loan to start window project of \$75,000.00 Nilda Salavachi seconded motion, motion was passed.

Installation of the 11 windows - \$30,000.00 estimate from MulroyBay Construction. Our proposal is to BORROW \$75,000.00 from the Investment account for the window project, which will take our Investment account to \$100,625.00 - above the minimum balance according to the Investment account criteria. We will begin fundraising activities to raise the additional \$15,000.00 and to replace the money we borrow from the investment account. Individuals and families can purchase a window and a plaque

will be placed next to the window indicating the window was donated by.....

I have had about 10 people approach me to say they are interested in donating to this project. \$8,700.00 per large window. \$6,500.00 per small window.

Note, if we hired a general contractor to oversee this project the cost to the church would have been in the neighborhood of \$40,000.00. Since we are acting as general contractors there is no cost.

In November 2018, the original window purchased for this window was damaged after delivery. We filed an insurance claim and received a check from the insurance company for \$8,942.00. Purchased 2 windows from Home Depot \$10,522.00 plus Window removal and install \$2,700.  $\$13,227.00 - \$8942.00 = \$4,285.00$  cost to the church for the first window installed.

**Old Business from the floor:** nothing

**New Business from the floor:**

Congregation asked questions - does community actually understand how church runs - bills, bank accounts, etc? Must look into this.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Stephanie Kosta. Vladimir Melnik seconded the motion. All were in favor, whereupon the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes from today's meeting were taken by council member Janice Leyden. Thank you Janice!

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Lorimer, Secretary