

**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
Parish Semi-Annual Meeting
October 23, 2022 (in person with livestream)**

Roll Call

Parish Council Members Present: Donna Dimitri, Sergio Georgi, Davit Jishkariani, Nilda Salavachi, Zach Smith

Council Members Absent: Christine Dardaris, Reem Tarazi

Clergy: Fr. Dennis

Meeting opened with prayer at 11:17am

Parish Council Election (conducted by Peter Ghicondey)

Peter started by thanking council members for service.

Slate of candidates presented: Christine Dardaris, Donna Dimitri, Davit Jishkariani, Sergio Georgi, Nilda Salavachi, Zachary Smith, and Reem Tarazi

Entertained nominations from the floor. No new nominations.

Vote to elect presented slate of candidates taken by hand. Motion passed.

Secretary's Report (prepared by Reem Tarazi, presented by Donna Dimitri)

Donna Dimitri presented the meeting minutes from semi-annual meeting in June 2022.

Linda Croke made a motion to accept, seconded by Jerry Hall. No discussion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report (presented by Zach Smith)

Slides and spreadsheets made available in handouts.

Zach presented a balanced budget for 2023, which relies on \$24,450 transfer from investment account.

Year to Date:

- Currently \$4822 in deficit, but spent \$55000 on new roof, so doing very well financially
- Anticipate small surplus at end of calendar year
- Transferred \$125,000 into investment account in last 3 years
- Recently transferred \$10,000 from investment account

Expenses:

- **Maintained 2022 budget for priest**
- Potential new priest is reviewing proposed compensation package
- Many expenses consistent with 2022 budget (which was amended in July)
- Utilities relatively low (no A/C for a while)
- Building and liability insurance –will save about \$4000 in 2023 with new provider; withdrew some money from investment account to make annual payment in full for additional savings
- Large maintenance costs in budget will be covered by old insurance company claims (including new AC)

- Archdiocese membership dues increasing (had been reduced during pandemic)

Income:

- Carried forward many budget line items to 2023, including anticipated pledge amount (\$60,000)
 - we are struggling to meet budgeted pledge amount, which needs to happen to support a full time priest
- Anticipate return of women's day dance in 2023 and associated revenue
- Insurance reimbursement expected to be \$23,000, which mirrors expenditure for AC
- Investment fund transfer

2023 Budget:

\$163,000 income; \$163,000 expenses; relying on \$24,450 transfer from investment account

Investment account sustained growth for many years, but not doing well currently, which reflects market

No questions.

Motion to accept report by **Linda Croke**, seconded by Jerry Hall. No abstentions. Motion passed.

Donna reminded parishioners of the need for more generous pledges to support our parish and a full-time priest.

Donna recognized Fr. Dennis' support and contributions to our parish.

Donna recognized the efforts of Zach as well as other parish council members.

Vice-Chairperson Report (presented by Sergio Georgi)

1. Archdiocesan Assembly summary:
 - a. Great experience; Fr. Nikodhim won election for new bishop; Donna re-elected as Treasurer of archdiocese; Ordination of new deacon, who is Albanian
2. Technology:
 - a. Continue livestreaming (started in July 2020)
 - b. Need volunteers to help/assist with livestream

Chairperson Report (presented by Donna Dimitri)

1. In July, several members of our parish attended the OCA All-American council in Baltimore. Report will be available on the website
2. To note, the Albanian Archdiocese is part of the OCA, led by Metropolitan Tikhon, which consists of >700 churches; there is a bishop elect for our Albanian Archdiocese
3. As Sergio mentioned, in September, several members of our parish attended the Albanian Archdiocese Assembly in NY. Report will be posted on the website. Most relevant issues included discussion about pension and election of bishop. In November, the Holy Synod will meet and hopefully confirm the election. Consecration will be next year.
4. The new AC has been delayed because of supply chain issues. AC has been ordered and hopefully will be put in early next year. Insurance company agreed to cover difference in cost that resulted from delay.

5. New roof installed; cost = \$55,000
6. We have has a couple of window leaks due to broken weld in gutters, which is being addressed. Plan is to repair window damage once we know leaks have stopped. Will paint church in spring
7. Sidewalk repairs completed (required by insurance company) and repaired back steps
8. Final major project planned is to replace windows in the church
9. Zach stressed that we received a number of generous donations for the new roof, which allowed us to do the work without taking money from investment account.
10. Linda Croke stated importance of having familiarity with constitution of our parish.

Old Business

None.

New Business

New priest update by Zach:

- We have interest from a priest from Greek archdiocese, Fr. Kakhaber Kurtanidze (Father Kai). Parish council interviewed him and met him in person and he served a Vespers service.
- Compensation subcommittee was formed to generate a clear compensation package, which totals about \$82,000. The package was reviewed and approved by archdiocese and Zach presented compensation package to Fr Kai this week for his consideration. We are awaiting a response but hope is that he will come to our parish as our new full-time priest.

Paula Bendo? made motion to close meeting. Jerry Hall seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting concluded at **at 12:00pm.**