

**Parish Council Meeting
September 11, 2023
Remote Zoom Meeting (recorded)**

Roll Call

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

Parish Council Members Absent: Sergio Georgi

Clergy: Fr. Kai

Auxiliary Members Present: Bill Bortner, Steve Coraluzzi, Linda Croke, Linda Notskas

Visitor: Liya Gendler

Meeting opened at 7:40 pm with prayer.

Secretary's Report (reported by Reem Tarazi)

Reem presented the minutes from the August 2023 meeting.

Zach moved to accept minutes as presented and seconded by Davit. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report (reported by Zachary Smith)

At end August 2023:

- Checking account down to ~\$22,000
- Market investment down to ~\$260,000, but still doing well
- 58 total pledges (2 new)
 - ~\$39,000 pledged, ~30,000 received
- Investment account and check register presented for review
- Notable Income
 - ~\$2260 in pledges received
 - Some memorial and general donations
- Notable Expenses
 - Nothing unusual
 - Final missionary donations should appear next month
- Significantly in red again this month, which is typical for summer, but we are still waiting for AC reimbursement
- Bank and CC statement available for review

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

Clergy report (reported by Fr. Kai)

- Looking forward to attending Archdiocesan Assembly next week and making connections with other priests.
- Committed to continuing Vespers even with a small group
- Highlighted importance of continued prayer and worship
- There was a request from a parishioner to hold a Peraklesis in Albanian
- Vasil offered to chant in Albanian on Wednesday
- Working to introduce children's chanting during liturgy

- Invited everyone to share thoughts, feedback, questions at anytime

Chairperson Report (reported by Donna Dimitri)

- 1) Insurance claim for air conditioner. We received \$3,677.75 from Utica Insurance. We are waiting for the balance, \$14,827.00. Sent copies of the cancelled checks to the underwriter.
- 2) Windows for the church. Checked with Home DePot for windows for the main part of the church. Considering Jeld-Wyn windows, the same company that made the windows for the church hall. Each window will be around \$2,000.00. Have to find an installer. Considering a stained-glass film for the widows as we cannot afford stained glass. Custom film (possibly the feast days in the middle with a cross on either side)

<http://churchwindowfilm.com/index.html>

Initial project \$1500.00 window installed. Preliminary cost of project \$60,000.00.

Ok so that window at 3-ft x 8-ft included the stained glass, a new aluminum frame and clear tempered glass on the exterior (storm covering). The cost today would be approx \$10,400 per window for all of that plus deliver and installation.



Thank you for this information. I will relay the information to our parish council.

It depends on the complexity of the stained glass.

- 3) Parish Council Elections will be held at the October Semi-Annual Parish meeting. Please let me know if you are able to serve on Parish Council in 2024. Elvira Gusho, a past trustee, has expressed an interest in joining council.
 - Fr. Kai suggested actively inviting people to attend meetings to become more familiar with council and to contribute
 - Nilda suggested forming subcommittee to approach parishioners and invite interested people to run for council or serve as auxiliary. Fr. Kai asked Nilda to head this subcommittee and Nilda accepted. Davit will also serve on this subcommittee. Donna stressed we need to recruit Sunday school director/teachers and a new treasurer.
 - Nilda suggested that we change term for *new* council members to 2-years. Council discussed pros and cons of changing terms of service officially versus encouraging people to serve for at least 2 years. This will be discussed again at future meeting.

- 4) Sunday school will begin on Sunday October 1, 2023. We have the following volunteers to teach: Fiori Papa, Ilirjan Papa, Vasil Papakroni, Entela Ndrecka.

Vice Chairperson Report (no report)

Old Business

- 1) Iconography: Donna sent around proposal for review. Fr. Kai and several council members shared initial reactions, which included concerns about moving forward with a project this expensive. Will be discussed more in future meeting, possibly following a formal presentation by iconographer.
- 2) Bishop Nikhodim will visit our church on 9/22/23, which will be the day of memorial for Jonathan Rhodes. This will be a regular liturgy, not a hierarchical liturgy. Zach asked about hotel for bishop; Donna indicated that we are not responsible for hotel.

New business

- 1) Council reviewed letter sent by archdiocese re: gifts in honor of ordination of Nikhodim.
 - o Following discussion, concil agreed that a \$1000 donation would be appropriate.
 - o Reem made motion to contribute \$750 to student fund and \$250 to Albanian church reconstruction; seconded by Zach; following discussion and suggestion by Nilda, motion amended to \$700 to student fund and \$300 to church reconstruction. No further discussion. Motion passed.
- 2) Davit proposed possibility of having daycare on church grounds as a way to make meaningful income for church in the future.
 - o Zach mentioned that liability will be very high. Christine suggested considering leasing or renting location to an already established business rather than starting a new business on our grounds. Nilda agreed, mentioning that other churches have similar setups. Linda N. mentioned that this was brought up some years ago and it was considered to be a big challenge. Reem noted limitations of outdoor space. Fr. Kai suggested moving forward with investigation of possibilities.

Next Parish Council monthly meeting scheduled for Monday, October 16 at 7:30pm.

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 pm with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Reem Tarazi