

**Parish Council Meeting
January 8, 2024
Remote Zoom Meeting (recorded)**

Roll Call

Parish Council Members Present: Christine Dardaris, Donna Dimitri, Sergio Georgi (8:10), Zachary Smith (until 8:20), Reem Tarazi

Parish Council Members Absent: Davit Jishkariani, Nilda Salavachi

Clergy: Fr. Kai

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

Meeting opened at 7:43 pm with prayer.

Secretary's Report (reported by Reem Tarazi)

Reem presented the minutes from the December 2023 meeting. No discussion.

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

Treasurer's Report (reported by Zachary Smith)

At end December 2023:

- Checking account up to ~\$42,000
- Investment account up to ~\$271,600; highest this year, reflecting market
- \$52,759 in formal pledges but received more than pledged (~\$57,400)
 - Slightly short of pledge payment goal for year
 - 71 pledging households (down from last year)
- Icon auction payments: ~\$14,400 total received, ~\$15,100 pledged
- Investment account, gain of almost ~\$35,000 for year (14.5% gain)
- Notable Income
 - Pledges received ~\$9000
 - More than budgeted received for Christmas donations (~8700)
 - One anonymous donation \$1000
 - Another generous yearly donation
 - Bequest by Zoidis family trust
- \$162,627 in revenue for year
- Notable Expenses
 - No notable expenses
 - \$500 honorarium for Bishop will be cashed
- \$158,799 expenses for year
- Achieved a surplus for year!
 - \$12,000 memorial donations far surpassed budget
 - Meaningfully surpassed budget for weekly collections
- Some expenses from 2023 will appear on 2024 report
- Bank and CC statement available for review

Reem moved to accept the report, seconded by Christine. No discussion. Zach abstained. Motion passed.

Zach presented summary on pledges and contributions for 2023.

- 17 families contribute about 50% of total contributions
- 11 families contribute about 50% of total pledges

Steve suggested more routine contribution statements be sent out.

Zach suggested adding a recognition note that parishioners responded to call for donations when parish was in significant need.

Donna suggested we send out the report with contribution/pledge summary for this year.

Clergy report (reported by Fr. Kai)

- 1) Feedback that Albanian speakers appreciate the inclusion of Albanian in liturgy
 - a. Concern that some Albanians still cannot access worship and would like to increase use of Albanian in service if someone is capable of reading some prayers in Albanian. Donna suggested active identification of parishioners who can rotate participation.
- 2) Will have tonsure of David Brook as a reader (Bishop will be present; Feb 24-25)
- 3) Fr. Kai and David plan to record and post educational content/discussion
- 4) Fr. Kai informed council about some ongoing teaching responsibilities

Donna recognized Fr. Kai for his continued outreach, which has brought new families to church.

Chairperson Report (reported by Donna Dimitri)

- 1) Windows in main church: I met Brian the contractor who installed the windows in the hall; \$3400 per window to install. Much higher than I anticipated. I had thought in the area of \$2,000 - \$2200.00 per window to install. Have an appointment with a contractor recommended by Big Joe (the person who did new roof). Will report back next month.
- 2) We received the report from Acer Associates, LLC in regard to the asbestos inspection, which was sent to council members.
 - a. The report was forwarded to the insurance company by Zach. No problems that we have to address.
- 3) Sunday school hasn't met since December 10th. The pageant was on Dec 17th and about 30 children were present. On Dec 24th students (and others) celebrated Christmas Vespers with Father Kai. If you weren't at church for the pageant or the Vespers service, I encourage you to watch the livestream on YouTube. The kids did a super great job on both occasions.
- 4) The Christmas decorations will be taken down this Saturday at 4:00 pm before Vespers if anyone is available to lend a hand.
- 5) Prevention of Sexual Harassment Policy was emailed to everyone. Please take a moment to read over the policy. The sign-off sheet will be at the candle stand for everyone to sign.
- 6) Bishop Nikodhim (and maybe Deacon Juxhin) will visit on February 25th. David Brook will be tonsured as a Reader.
 - a. Linda C. made arrangements for them to stay in the guest suite at her building.
 - b. Bishop Nikodhim will celebrate Vespers on February 24th and the Divine Liturgy on February 25th.
 - c. We can ask our parishioners to make their specialty for coffee hour on Feb 25th.
 - d. We will provide a Philly dinner (Cheesesteaks, Pizza and Soft Pretzels) for dinner Saturday night.
 - e. Sunday will be a memorable day as David Brook will be tonsured as a Reader.

Vice Chairperson Report (reported by Sergio Georgi)

- 1) Website updated; will add pictures from icon auction
- 2) Will complete archives for 2023
- 3) Will update donation, pledge, payment forms for 2024
- 4) 201 subscribers for livestream
- 5) Replaced another microphone; 4 available
- 6) Will open ticket with Square to address concern about multiple \$1 donations from unknown people; no data compromised

Old Business

- 1) Elvira proposal to sell food as fundraiser; early planning phase
- 2) Soup-er Bowl Sunday Feb 11: will proceed as usual (Linda C. will coordinate and welcomes donations)
- 3) Reem provided update for the St Christopher's Holiday gift drive; we were able to support 2 SCHC patients and their siblings/mothers. Thank you to all who contributed time or donations!
- 4) Women's Day Dance: will discuss plans/date
- 5) Will work on getting photographs of parish council members for website
- 6) Grigor updated about insurance quote he obtained; did not beat the rate we have

New business

- 1) Consider goals for 2024
- 2) Will discuss date for semi-annual meeting next month
- 3) Archdiocese meeting will be in Philadelphia this year September 20-21, 2024; Donna encouraged all council members to attend; Sergio offered to assist with AV

Next Parish Council monthly meeting scheduled for Monday, February 12, at 7:30pm.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Reem Tarazi