

**St Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church****Dayton Ohio****Parish Council Meeting  
December 19, 2016**

Mary Kay Smith convened the meeting at 6:00 PM. Fr. Ted led the opening prayer.

Present: Fr. Ted Bobosh, Mary Kay Smith, President; Brian Garber, Bill Turri, Ann McLarnan (Acting Secretary for this meeting in Joanna Newton's absence), current members; Janine Elash, Rebecca Barone, 2017 members

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Neither minutes nor financial reports were available to be approved at this meeting. Mary Kay Smith reported that the ongoing pledge campaign has so far resulted in 55 pledges representing 82 members for a total of \$168,130, which covers 64% of the 2017 budget. The pledge campaign is slightly behind where it was at this point last year, but several additional pledges are anticipated this week. Donations are the same as last year.

**DISCUSSION AGENDA**

Council reviewed the Nov. 13 annual meeting.

Council reviewed the parish policy concerning firearms. Ohio law says guns are not permitted in churches unless a church specifies in writing that they are allowed. St. Paul's does not allow guns, following a previous parish council decision and risk committee recommendation. Questions have arisen about the possibility of exceptions for specific events. Council reaffirmed current policy but will ask the risk committee to consider potential exceptions. These would need to be posted and added to the policy book.

The annual council planning meeting will be held on February 11 from 9 AM to noon. Brian Garber will solicit a list of most important goals for next year. New council members will get updated policy books. Mary Kay Smith, outgoing President, gave a list of parish committees and parishioners responsible for various functions.

**Long Term Goals****a) Space Planning/ Parish Growth**

Mark Pearson is talking with the lighting consultant again, and it has also been suggested to paint the ceiling a lighter color and/or change the hanging light fixtures.

Fr. Ted reported that Mark Stokoe is purchasing icons for the side walls at auctions. He is looking for 18, council having given him a budget of \$15,000. He has 13 at this point, having spent \$9,000. The plan is to have them installed on the side walls of the sanctuary before the Sunday of Orthodoxy, with lampadas. It will be important to position them so that they are not knocked off the walls. The risk committee will consider updating insurance to cover.

Updating the capital improvements plan and the planned savings for future maintenance needs will be reviewed at the planning meeting in February.

**b) Priestly Planning/ Diaconate Program**

Fr. Ted reported that 4 men are still in the diaconate program. They are half way through a 3 year program. Bishop Paul has indicated that he would consider ordaining one or two men at the

completion of the program, others later. Mark Caldwell and David Abshear are likely the ones who will be considered in a year and a half. Deacon Steve will go to the Diocese of Western Pennsylvania upon ordination to the priesthood.

#### Short Term Goals

##### Volunteers

a. greeter committee is working well. They are looking for additional greeters and plan to start "Pew Pals and Fellowship Friends." Mary Kay Smith will be liaison.

b. Fellowship Teams are led by Dave Fenner. They still need to have a meeting of all teams. A continuing problem has been food left on the counter in the Fellowship Hall after everyone leaves.

c. Photo Directory — a new non-photo directory is coming out. A photo directory is still worth pursuing.

d. Counters are organized by the Treasurer and are working well.

e. Cleaners— need a cleaning day early in 2017. Special attention to cleaning the ovens by hand, organizing the attic, keeping food out of the classrooms.

f. Church School Teachers Background checks are needed for new teachers plus 3 year renewals will need to be done this year. The Easter Baskets for shut-ins will happen again this Pascha. Laura Short, who is in the Catechist Program, will do some work with curricula.

g) Social Needs — Alyson Turri is continuing to plan events, considering a cookie decorating event.

h) Education/ Enrichment is looking at having another in-person session of the Darkness to Light sexual misconduct prevention training if the required number of people can attend. All background-checked people need this training, although it can be done on-line. Some kind of social media awareness for parents is also under consideration. Mary Kay Smith will purchase gift cards for the Icon Exhibit volunteers.

##### New Business

Janine Elash asked about removing the kneelers from the backs of the pews in the large central gap. She feels they are a tripping hazard and a too-tempting climbing place. Council unanimously agreed to have the two kneelers removed.

Mary Kay Smith reported that several new donations have been received for Fr. Ted's medical expense fund.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM with the Prayer of St. Simeon.

Respectfully submitted,

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V. Rev. Theodore Bobosh, Rector

Ann McLarnan, Acting Secretary

Ratified \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_