

St Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church**Dayton Ohio****Parish Council Meeting (Council Planning Retreat)
February 11, 2017**

Brian Garber convened the meeting at 9:10 AM. Fr. Ted led the opening prayer.

Present: Fr. Ted Bobosh, Brian Garber, President; Bill Turri, Kerrie Wiese, Janine Elash, Rebecca Barone, Bruce Garber, Ann McLarnan

CONSENT AGENDA

Kerrie Weise gave the financial report, focusing on the December statements. Contributions year to date in December were 93% of the operating budget, an increase over the total pledged. Pledges for 2017 so far are down \$11,000 from 2016, totaling 73% of the budget approved at the November 2016 Parish Meeting. Several families have moved from the parish. The question was raised if we have any way to know how completely pledges made are fulfilled by the end of the year. Kerrie responded that what each family contributes is confidential, but we might be able to get a general summary. Mid-year and end-of-year statements are emailed to all members.

The water bill for November and December looks unusually high; is there a leak or an issue related to the previous broken and replaced water heater? Bruce Garber will follow up on this.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

The Space Planning Survey from a year and a half ago was revisited. Our feeling continues to be that there is still sufficient room in the nave but that the church school classrooms are really full. At this point it looks like this is the result of a large cohort of kids in the early grades. The numbers may ease off later, but as the kids grow it may be harder to fit them in the available space. Janine asked whether we had the proper tables and chairs to make the best use of classroom space. The question of classroom allocation also came up. Can we move classes into different rooms to make the best use of space? Could we consider removing walls? Kerrie will talk to the teachers in late February.

Council also discussed the space needs in the Fellowship Hall, whether a different shape of table would be more efficient and whether relocating the coffee would make for an easier serving line.

Brian's summary: We don't need nave expansion right now. The Fellowship Hall is still OK, perhaps with some tweaks. We have 50 growing kids in church school classrooms, although several families with children are moving. This might relieve the congestion a bit. Kerrie will report on plans for the next church school year at the next meeting.

Council discussed the possibility of an outside fenced play area to help with the problem of kids wandering the grounds after Liturgy. The risk committee has looked at this. Some dedicated space would help with wandering, but any play equipment would need to be professionally installed to keep insurance costs down. We would need to fund raise to undertake such a project, or could we use the capital improvement fund? Kerrie will ask the risk committee what they learned about this issue. Rebecca Barone will find out numbers for equipment and insurance costs and will consider guidelines for timing of use after the service or during the service.

Council discussed how the parish handles complaints and criticism and how we might improve the way these are handled. The goal would be to make sure those who are bothered feel they are heard without making those who are the subjects of complaints feel unduly attacked and alienated. At each

council meeting we will hear from Fr. Ted about current complaints. Bill Turri suggests having a council member talk to the congregation each week for 60 seconds so that people know who they can bring complaints to.

The need for more volunteers for the various weekly jobs was discussed. More volunteers are needed, especially church school teachers, second adults in classrooms, and counters. Janine Elash will prepare a survey form to gauge interest in the various jobs. Janine will also prepare a list of the currently active committees and chairs.

We discussed ways to improve adult education and enrichment. Bill Turri is looking for ways to make these discussions and classes something everyone does. Council agreed to try holding the Sunday discussion in the Fellowship Hall during Fellowship Hour one Sunday a month. Bill and Fr. Ted will work on a discussion about Lenten topics for the first Sundays of March and April.

Fr. Ted reported that Mark Stokoe has purchased 24 icons as we agreed, They will be installed in the sanctuary next week with lampadas. If parishioners made further donations to replenish the icon fund, there is room to purchase and install further icons later. Donations should have "replenish the icon fund" in the memo.

Gabe Brauch has asked to do his Boy Scout Eagle Project installing a paver patio and fire pit on church grounds in the same spot we currently use for bonfires. The cost will be about \$1300. Council approved his request and agreed to donate \$100 with the rest coming from a fundraising appeal to the church.

Council also discussed a request for funding from a parishioner from the Cincinnati parish. He would like to visit all American monasteries and prepare a photographic atlas. It was felt that this was not a good time for the parish as a whole to provide funding, but the request would be made available to individual parish members for their consideration.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM with the Prayer of St. Simeon.

Respectfully submitted,

V. Rev. Theodore Bobosh, Rector

Ann McLarnan, Secretary

Ratified _____ / _____ / _____