

**St Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church****Dayton Ohio****Parish Council Meeting  
May 15, 2017**

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

Brian Garber called the meeting to order at 6:03. Fr. Ted led the Paschal Troparion.

The minutes of the April 17, 2017 council meeting were approved.

Kerrie Wiese reported that the April financial reports are not yet available. Also, the annual audit needs to be completed before the end of the summer. Dave Cooper and Joanna Newton were elected auditors at the Annual Parish Meeting in November. Dave is still able to conduct the audit; Joanna has not yet indicated whether she is still able. Kerrie will continue to try to contact her.

The Risk Committee will meet this week to add the updates approved last meeting to the policy manual.

**Long Term Goals****Community Outreach/Evangelism**

Brian Garber reported that Bruce Garber spoke with Greene County to express our interest in being a polling place. We are now on their waiting list of potential polling sites; there is no obligation on our part.

Bill Turri reported on a survey of parish evangelism just released by the OCA. Bill has turned the survey's questions into an assessment tool for our parish, and he gave copies to the whole council. He would like council to complete the survey and return to him before the June council meeting.

Some discussion followed about making sure we're following up on visitors.

**Short Term Items****Volunteer Development**

Kerrie reports she has sent the latest updated membership list to Fr. Ted.

There was further discussion of the Volunteer Survey which Janine Elash sent to the parish several months ago. She would like to send it out again, just to parish members.

**Church School**

Brian suggests focusing on the clearest need demonstrated by the survey, recruiting new teachers for the Church School. Kerrie reports we currently have 3 teachers returning next year, but need more. She will ask each church school family to have one adult background checked, if possible, in order to have more people she can call on to be the second adult in a classroom in case of absences. She will also ask teachers to be better at documenting lesson plans several weeks in advance so a substitute would have guidance. There was also discussion of ways to better minister to young adults/college students.

**Photography Policy**

Ann McLarnan presented a draft Photography Policy. This was approved for addition to the policy manual, with the contact email address changed to the webmaster Gmail address.

**Outdoor Play Area**

Rebecca Barone presented three possible playground equipment plans and council looked at possible locations on the grounds. There was extensive discussion about how to proceed. The cost is large and it seems imprudent to take that much money from the capital improvement fund at a time when donations are down slightly. Council decided to present Plan 2, costing about \$25,000, to the congregation and ask for pledges toward the cost. Rebecca will continue to chair this effort.

**Secretary Credit Card?**

Council considered the request for a second parish credit card for the parish secretary. While it would have some usefulness, it would carry its own paperwork burden and would not significantly lighten Fr. Ted's load. Council decided not to approve the request at this time.

**Adult Education**

Bill Turri reported on the once-per-month in-fellowship-hour discussions. They have been generally well received. He will provide more explanation to the congregation, pick a topic different from the every-Sunday discussion and announce it ahead of time.

**Special Events**

Fr. Ted began discussion of the parish feast day celebration. Sts. Peter and Paul, June 29, falls on a Thursday this year, so

we will celebrate on the evening of June 28. Fr. Joseph of Annunciation Church might be open to participation in a Vespers-Liturgy, so we will invite their congregation to that service with a special potluck to follow.

Church School resumes on August 28. Council agreed the annual parish picnic will be combined with the church school kick-off, so picnic planning will begin later in the summer.

New Business

By the next meeting we need to determine if coffee hour drinks need a new champion temporarily while Tanya Pavlina recovers.

The issue of alcohol use and/or abuse at the Pascha celebration has been raised by several members of the congregation. There has been an increase in availability of alcohol at that meal and questions have been raised to the risk committee about legal liability for the parish over drinking and driving and possible underage drinking. Several people have also reported unwanted pressure to drink after they clearly indicated they didn't wish to drink. Council is very concerned about these reports. While not yet willing to ban alcohol at Pascha altogether, we will both look again at our liability and possible need for event insurance, and will have a clear discussion with the congregation next Palm Sunday about alcohol at Pascha, including no means no and never to minors, with the clear possibility that we may need to move to ban alcohol if things don't improve.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 with the Paschal Troparion.

Respectfully submitted,

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V. Rev. Theodore Bobosh, Rector

Ann McLarnan, Secretary

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