

St Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

Dayton Ohio

**Parish Council Meeting
August 23, 2018**

Present: Fr. Ted, Brian Garber, Kerrie Wiese, Rebecca Barone, Bruce Garber, David Short, Ann McLarnan, Heather Weiss

Brian Garber called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm. Fr. Ted led "O Heavenly King."

The minutes of the June meeting were approved.

Kerrie Wiese gave the financial report. In general parish finances are in good shape. Contributions year-to-date through June are 45% of the 2018 operating budget, which is somewhat stronger than at a similar point in recent years. Several expenses have been higher than anticipated as well. She anticipates several budget lines will have to be added or increased in the 2019 budget, (deacon's salary, secretary's salary, coffee hour supplies, 2019 Vacation Church School, and playground mulch) increasing the total 2019 budget amount.

The question was raised whether we need a committee to put together the proposed budget as outlined in the bylaws. It was decided we will proceed as in recent years: Kerrie will put together the outline of a budget and bring it to the September Parish Council meeting for discussion.

Dave Cooper has completed his audit of the first 6 months of 2017. Matt Ferdelman has the financial records for the second half of 2017. He will complete his portion of the audit and will also suggest some new procedures, since he is an accountant.

David Short reported that the congregational survey results were overwhelmingly in favor of keeping the current round tables in the fellowship hall rather than moving to rectangular tables, so we will stick with round tables. There was some discussion about other changes that could be made with the current tables that might maximize the available space and relieve some of the congestion.

Brian Garber reported on further research he has done into the possibility of online pledging and contributions. Christ the Savior in Cincinnati makes some use of online pledging on their website. We ought to be able to replicate this if we decide this is a good thing to pursue. He spoke with their website manager who said they don't use Paypal any longer because it was costing them money. David asked about the possibility of asking our bank to help set up ACH transfers, or accepting credit card contributions while suggesting that anyone using a credit card increase their donation to cover the credit card fee.

Council discussed the Camp Fund and the description of the available yearly grant in the policies and procedures manual. It was decided to replace the current wording with a modified version of the wording in the June minutes. The minutes say:

"We are suggesting a grant of \$400 per child once per year for applications made by March 15. Later requests could be met as funds allowed. If there are more on-time requests than funds we suggest reducing the amount given to each child. Special requests for help should go to Father Ted."

Ann will work on modifying this into a policy statement. We will send it to Jeff Wiese to replace current wording.

Kerrie reports that all church school teacher and assistant positions have been filled. They still need volunteers to be on a list to be the second classroom adult in emergencies.

Heather Weis gave a final report on this summer's Vacation Church School, which was successful and enjoyable. The children learned things and were able to demonstrate what they had learned. They had fun with the memory verse and songs. Cooperation with Annunciation Greek church was excellent and they made a \$700 donation to help with the cost. They are eager to help or host next summer. Teachers did have mixed feelings about the curriculum used. Next year's VCS will still use the second book in the major feasts series but Heather and Erin Caldwell will develop plans to supplement the curriculum much more extensively. We should consider raising the budget line item for VCS to \$1300. The organizers will ask parents about their children's potential behavior difficulties when families sign-up next year so that they can staff accordingly.

Father Ted reports Andrew Watson approached him about having a parish rummage sale, which Andrew felt would be of interest to many parish families. Council determined that we are not interested in doing this as a parish fundraising project, but if a parish member wants to plan and chair a rummage sale held in the parking lot, or wants to request use of the facility as a non-parish-related event with the required clean-up deposit, we are fine with that.

Three council positions will be up for election at the Annual Parish Meeting. We will seek new volunteers for two of those positions since Janine Elash and Rebecca Barone have decided not to run for additional terms although eligible to do so.

Council voted to approve the proposed wording of the Emergency Action Plan prepared by the Risk Committee.

The Diocese has asked each parish to list this year's successes and challenges in the annual report for the Diocesan Assembly in October. Council suggested as high points the Vacation Church School, the playground, the new icons, the completion of the 3 year long Diaconate class and successful graduates, and the establishment of a security plan for the parish. Navigating changing security and liability concerns was seen as a challenge.

Bruce Garber reported that the water softener, which is original to the building, is no longer working properly. He will get in touch with Enting and have them make a proposal to replace it.

The meeting ended at 7:20 pm with Fr. Ted leading the Prayer of St Simeon.

Respectfully submitted,

V. Rev. Theodore Bobosh, Rector

Ann McLarnan, Secretary

Ratified _____ / _____ / _____