

St Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

Dayton Ohio

**Parish Council Meeting
February 3, 2018**

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

Brian Garber called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. Fr. Ted led "O Heavenly King."

The minutes of the December 20, 2017 council meeting were approved.

Financial Report and Pledge Campaign

The December and January Financial Reports were not yet available.

Kerrie Wiese reported that a total of 74 pledges have been made for 2018, representing 107 adult members. The total pledged amount was \$200,770, or 75.3% of the approved 2018 budget. The amount pledged for 2018 was \$4540 more than for 2017.

We report 130 adult members to the OCA. Our reported membership has been about 130 for a number of years, as we gain some new members and lose some current members.

Kerrie reported that contributions were at 77% of budget as of the November report, and were strong in December. Some additional contributions have come in for the playground project, leaving a total of \$248 not paid by pledges. As a result we won't need to take the anticipated \$5000 from the capital improvement fund. The playground fund should be zeroed out soon.

There are also still donor restricted funds in our account for the memorial garden and the camp fund. There is \$11,000 in the vehicle replacement fund. The current vehicle is 6 years old and has 60,000 miles on it. It may soon be time to consider trading it in.

Kerrie asked if we should begin to consider reorganizing how much we deduct automatically each month for the capital improvement fund. We take out \$1900/ month for charitable contributions and \$1500/ month for Capital improvements, and have \$75,000 in capital fund. We agreed we will ask the former Maintenance Committee to consider what our short-term upcoming maintenance and replacement needs might be.

Brian Garber responded to the Diocesan guidelines for pastoral compensation. St Paul's has been funding all of the required areas as well or better than the diocese asks. He notes Fr. Ted should be taking more vacation. These guidelines are especially designed to help parishes hiring new priests from seminary put together appropriate compensation packages.

Brian talked about ways we could do the annual pledge drive differently, and look for suggestions from members with fundraising experience. David Short proposed finding ways to educate the congregation about what we do with the money raised, and asked about encouraging automatic donations.

Fr. Ted mentioned a recent difficulty with the end of year statements sent out by Laura Avdacov, our volunteer accountant. A parish member did not understand what she was sending him and replied to her email in an angry fashion. We will work on setting up a parish email for her so she can be protected from this kind of thing.

Vacation Church School Proposal

Heather Weis presented her proposal for establishing a vacation church school program at St Paul's. She envisions a week-long program for ages 3 - 12 running from June 25-29. The plan would be to end with the children contributing to the parish feast day liturgy on June 29 by singing and making the prosphora. She is still evaluating possible curricula and whether it should be day or evening. She also proposes asking the Greek church if they are interested in joining us.

Kerrie pointed out that we already have a line in the budget for vacation church school, so funding has already been approved. The plan was enthusiastically approved.

Space Planning

Brian asked about the Young Adult Ministry plans. Fr. Ted reported several interested volunteers, and work will continue.

Brian noted several space concerns. Is there a way we could set up the Fellowship hall to make it easier to move around while still seating as many or more people? Could we use different shaped tables? Kerrie noted that we will also begin to need more church school space as the little kids get bigger. Rebecca will talk to Steve Brown for recommendations for someone to do a space planning analysis, and will find out what that would cost and whether it might be helpful.

Emergency Action Plan

David Short presented the Risk Committee's emergency action plan for emergencies or active threats, and their emergency recovery plan for recovering from a disaster. These are still works in progress but they are currently asking for direction from council on two matters:

1. an immediate plan to lock all doors at 9:30 AM on Sundays except the front door, then unlock them at the end of Liturgy. Council agreed and will talk to the parish about this.

2. Decide whether we will permit lethal force to be used inside the church building in response to a hostile situation. Council voted not to allow lethal force and to continue to ban concealed weapons in the building.

Council would like to especially thank the risk committee for all their ongoing work.

David Short also spoke about participating with IOCC on a plan they are developing in conjunction with FEMA to make various churches centers for community disaster response. The meeting ended at 11:05 with Fr. Ted leading the prayer of St. Simeon.

Respectfully submitted,

V. Rev. Theodore Bobosh, Rector

Ann McLarnan, Secretary

Ratified _____ / _____ / _____