

Parish Council Planning Meeting
St. Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church
2/19/19

Present: Father Theodore Bobosh, Brian Garber, Kerrie Wiese, Heather Weis, Bruce Garber, David Abshear, David Adakov, David Short

Opening Prayer and Call to Order

Fr. Ted led "O Heavenly King"

Bruce called meeting to order.

Financial Report

Kerrie discusses financial report.

- Ended year strong contributions at 94%
- Highest in the last 5 years
- Charity fund goes down \$1,500 – coded in error
- Expenses down, revenue up
- Below budget, as always
- No concerns raised regarding the report

Action item: Kerrie will send report with corrections

Discussion Items: Planning for the Year

Question posed by Fr. to council: What is the purpose of the Parish itself? Why do we have a Parish? What is the purpose of the Parish? What is it supposed to do? Christ in general spoke in the plural, imagined groupings. This can help us look through what are we trying to do throughout the year?

Responses:

- Bruce: to nurture the body of Christ, which is all of us.
 - what does it mean to nurture: teach, share, pray for others, grow in the faith, put us on the road to salvation
 - David S. – safety and security
- David S.: Additionally, we are a community, but we have open arms to reach out to those who don't have a community (those who don't have a community, St. V. de Paul, etc.)
 - like a family with children of different ages spiritually and physically – complex entity
- David A. – to spread love and help the poor

Fr. Ted asks "What are we nurturing for?"

- Bruce – salvation
- Ann – equipping them to go out into the world
- David – want to be able to get a plant so that it thrives and grows and continues to produce
- Kerrie – how can we make ourselves visible to the Parish council
 - Make sure we announcement the week before to invite people
 - Bruce was going to sit down and chat with people

Fr. Ted asks "Should the council be nurturing?" We need to have the sense of what are we nurturing people for?

We tend to go back to planning meetings without thinking of the bigger picture.

- David - we need to create an environment that is nurturing and therefore the council should provide the tools (building maintenance, so that people can be nurtured).
- Ann suggests that nurturing requires a certain amount of saying no to things that are proposed. We may be able to nurture in several ways.
- David A – this more of a strategic meeting, but we go back into business; we do a combo in businesses I've been with and make those goals with both strategic and tactical and make a timeline
- Brian – parish council members take up certain items (like the playground) and spearhead those problems; again we provide the tools
- Bruce – guest speakers
 - David - Sometimes Parish council initiates and sometimes it fosters it
 - Bruce suggest wills or financial instruction.
- Heather – Nurturing also means not alienating the community by providing too many rules.
 - David Short – it starts with the bylaws and it doesn't happen in a vacuum
- Bruce suggests workshops to focus on certain items, like St. Paul, financial planning, etc
 - Dave A – the most successful way that we've done things at my company is providing content to

- a captive audience. We could do it right before the kissing of the cross.
- David Short and Heather think this is not a great idea, especially in regard to parents with young children.
- Brian – how can we nurture the church spiritually; if we have some time set aside to discuss these things each meeting
 - the only issue is that we can talk forever and never do anything
 - Plan something and then have it; go in with low expectations
- Heather suggests having a recurring event calendar that can sometimes be social and sometimes educational, but the key is to have it at the same time at a set interval.

Discussion Items: Building Upgrades

- Building Projects:
 - Kerrie – Bathrooms need to be added to the list
- Brian – Audrey wants to make another set of vestments for Pascha; Fr. Ted responds that no one came forward to donate money, she would probably make more sets, but we don't have a donor for it; same as things for Icons; that might measure the community's interest in it at the moment. We'd need a complete proposal from her.
 - **Actionable Items:** Do they need to be replaced? We don't have full sets of everything, so she wants to add to it. Is that a priority? No, but you do have the sense of it is a nice thing to have, but not essential. Kerrie states the altar robes are essential.
 - David S. – inventory of what we have would be nice to have, and then we can communicate that to the parish
 - Kerrie – there could be a lot of people who want to do these things, not just Audrey
 - Inevitably someone will be upset about how we are spending the money. – Fr. Ted
 - Fr. Ted – we have a storage problem. We don't have space to store all these cloths. Rich H. has said he would make a new cabinet, but we don't have it yet. There is not a lot of room for storing things back there.
 - David S. – the cost of the storage would have to be included
 - Kerrie – we need to not take on too many donations at one time for accounting purposes
- David- can we find materials that can educate us in some of these items – nurture, outreach, etc.
- Classroom Expansion – moving back wall out to window and adding a second story
 - David – we're a lot of novices and we should talk to a designer; or architect
 - Steve Brown brought space planning in, but not the same thing as talking to an architect– Brian
 - Fr. Ted – we'd have to get neighbor's approval as well
 - Kerrie – we'd have to expand parking too; is the population growth we are experiencing a temporary growth or not? It's hard to tell. The parking issue will be first when thinking of expanding.
 - David – we'll have a lot of opinions, so let's hire a professional.
- Nave Expansion – Fr. Ted: Bp. Paul would like to see a mission start in Middletown with contributing members from the church here and the one in Cinci. You have to have the Bp.'s approval for anything done with the building.

Discussion Items: Committees

Bruce suggests we need to reach out to people to see if they will be the chairs of certain committees. The suggestions are as follows:

- Facilities Committee – John Brausch
- In/Outreach Committee – David S.
- Education – Kerrie and David S.
- Administration – Erin Caldwell
- Worship Committee – Chip
- Risk Committee – Jeff Wiese
- Social Committee – Alyson Turri (someone needs to contact her to see if she is still interested)
- Greeters – Maria Brausch
- Fellowship Committee – David Fenner and Evgenia Watson

- Volunteer Coordinator – Janine collected names, but then no one follows up, so we have a difficult time keeping up with volunteers.

Discussion Items: Website Update

Ann notes that we need to update the website and it should cost somewhere around \$110/year. There should be a little bit involved with making sure we keep the email addresses. There will also be a \$100 one-time expense along with the update.

Discussion Items: Serving Young Families and Shut-Ins

- Recording liturgy is suggested.
- Ann – we used to go sing to people, but we haven't in a while
- Kerrie – people come from the church to visit
- Bruce asks about serving young families
 - Heather talks about OPA (Orthodox Parents in Action), a group that Annunciation has where the parents meet at a set interval to fellowship and learn with each other. Sometimes they have speakers and sometimes they do not. They always have a meal and paid sitters.

Discussion Items: Financial Accountability and Investments

Dave A. discusses financial accountability, noting that about 20 years ago not for profits got very specific about separation of duties to prevent theft. He also discusses investments like setting aside funds into CD's. There would be no fee for something like that. We would also want to put a small amount in stocks – TD Ameritrade.

- Kerrie – we do tend to separate duties; Matt F. is looking into our processes. We do have Laura double checking me.
- David s. – I'll set up a Google folder for the Parish Council documents.
 - David S. Are there guidelines and constraints for investing?
 - Ann – the Diocese has items like this for investment.
- David A. discusses OCCIF. David A called 4 times and left messages, but did not hear back. Anytime you want to invest, you want a CFA. We have not heard back on the risk.
 - If we're interested in social investing, the Calvert has something where they invest for you, but they take a big cut.

Closing Prayer: St. Simeon's Prayer

Bruce adjourned the meeting.