

St Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

Dayton Ohio

**Parish Council Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2018**

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

Brian Garber called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. Fr. Ted led "O Heavenly King."

The minutes of the August 23, 2018 council meeting were approved.

Parish member Bill Lamb spoke to the council about Proposition 1, an Ohio constitutional amendment proposal currently on the Ohio ballot for this November. He is very concerned about negative effects if this should pass and would like permission to present information about the proposition to the congregation, either by speaking about it during announcements or by making written material available after Liturgy. If parish involvement is not possible he will understand and work on his own to educate people on this issue.

Council thanked Bill for his presentation and his interest, but could not agree to his proposal. We agreed unanimously that the parish must avoid even appearing to take sides on any political issue and that we were not able to endorse any type of political information or discussion.

A discussion about parish disagreements about young children and noise in the church will be the first order of business at our October meeting.

Kerrie Wiese gave the July financial report. At the end of July the parish had taken in contributions equal to 55% of the yearly operating budget, or approximately \$11,000 ahead of this time last year. We are continuing to save \$1500 per month in the capital improvement fund.

Kerrie introduced a first draft of the 2019 budget and noted several changes. Budget lines in Pastoral Expense have been adjusted in an effort to comply with the diocesan recommendation for priestly compensation. This calls for providing the priest with 15.3% of salary and housing allowance to meet his social security obligation. Fr. Ted will receive a 3.8% increase in take home pay this year. There is currently money left in the medical fund and he will begin Medicare during 2019.

The Deacon line item is back in the draft budget because it is anticipated that a deacon will be ordained for the parish during 2019. This includes a \$100 per Sunday stipend plus cost of pre-ordination psychological evaluation and some vestments.

The office assistant salary has been raised to \$12/ hour from \$10/ hour. David Short asked about doing an annual job review to provide feedback as is standard business practice. Council agrees to this and Brian and Fr. Ted will implement it.

Under Utilities, the Waste Management line shows a major increase. We will investigate the rates for other trash removal companies.

The Capital Improvement Escrow line is decreased by 2/3 for 2019. We currently have \$80,000 in this fund. This is enough for maintenance needs for the coming year, but Brian Garber, Bruce Garber and John Brauch will be asked to update the long term maintenance plan. That will give us a better sense of how much we need to anticipate spending on major maintenance items in the next few years.

Under Meeting Expense the All American Council fund is cut way back this year since the next AAC is 3 years away. The Clergy Convocation line should increase to \$1000 since there may be expenses for a deacon also.

Under Committee Expense the Vacation Church School is funded at \$1200. There was discussion of spending priorities within that program. Under Hospitality, plates cups and silverware are no longer being donated so that line item has been increased.

In other business it was agreed that it is time to put together new liturgy books for the pews to incorporate the changes to liturgical language we are making in accord with the new OCA service book.

Matt Ferdelman is done with his portion of the 2017 audit. He will make recommendations and is willing to audit again next year. Kerrie will ask Dave Cooper if he is willing to continue as well.

Rebecca Barone and Janine Elash are both retiring from Council rather than run again this year, so there will be two open Council positions on the ballot at the annual meeting. Volunteers are needed. The revised bylaws we adopted in 2016 allow council members to serve 3 consecutive 2 year terms. 2019 will be Kerrie Wiese's sixth year on council, so we will need to recruit and train a new treasurer during this coming year.

Bruce Garber reported that the old water softener needs to be replaced. the quote from Enting is \$1799 comprehensive for a new unit. Council accepts the quote. David Short proposes an additional under sink reverse osmosis unit. The Building Maintenance group will gather information about that.

Fr. Ted notes that the hinges on the right hand oven door are once again broken. This has happened a number of times recently and costs \$140 each time to fix. Council discussed placing signs and also trying to understand just what is happening to cause the breakage.

Brian Garber continues pursue the possibility of online pledging and using a spreadsheet to record weekly contributions. He has some good information about how Christ the Savior parish in Cincinnati does online pledging. He will ask them about online payment. Ann McLarnan will use the ideas from Christ the Savior parish to make a sample GoogleDocs pledge form that we might use in 2019.

The visit by the Sugar Creek Twp. police went well; the fire department will visit soon. David Short will publish final versions of the Emergency Action Plan for review and will make laminated pew cards showing evacuation routes before the fire drill planned for mid October.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM. Fr. Ted led St Simeon's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

V. Rev. Theodore Bobosh, Rector

Ann McLarnan, Secretary

Ratified _____ / _____ / _____