

November 2019 Parish Council Meeting

St. Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

11/19/2019

Present: Ann McLaman, Erin Caldwell, Bruce Garber, Father Gregory, Brian Garber, David Short, David Avdakov, Jim Cunningham

Opening Prayer

Meeting opened at 6:03 PM. Fr. Gregory led "O Heavenly King".

Approval of Meeting Minutes

David moved to accept the proposed minutes. Brian seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Council discussed how to collect the Annual Parish items that we have to send to the bishop, including the list of newly elected council members.

Car Allowance

Bruce asked Fr. Gregory whether he'd prefer tracking mileage or having a cash allowance. Fr. will see how it goes with the cash allowance and we will reconvene on the topic as needed.

Parish Proceedings Update

The Ferdelmans are scheduled and Winslers are in dialogue about the baptisms of their respective newborns.

Catechism/ Inquirers classes have begun. Father has reached out to people who have expressed interest in the church and has heard confession.

There will be one Liturgy during the week. The schedule will include a Wednesday evening Vespers and a Thursday morning Liturgy.

This schedule would change during the week only if there was a Feast Day. Google Calendar is being updated accordingly.

Helping Parish Adjust

Council briefly discussed the following items:

- Veneration of the cross hand change.
- Prayer behind the ambo – Fr. Gregory noted that when the Mission was established, they were already doing it this way, but Fr. Ted was specifically asked to maintain it. Therefore, we will continue this practice as is for now. If the change occurs, we will need to explain it to the parish.
- Reception of Communion – going as families or having children first come first. Again, continue as is.
- Prayers after Communion – Bruce suggested different ways to incorporate these prayers, but we decided to continue as is.
- Incorporating girls in the service – Bruce noted that St. Mary's had girls serve the antidoron. The topic was discussed. David Short suggested taking this discussion out of Parish Council to someone who would like to head this endeavor so we can focus on Council topics.
- Readers – Bruce questioned whether we should have tonsured readers reading the Epistle. However, we need to have a larger pool and this is an opportunity for women to serve, so we will continue as is.
- Singing vs. reciting Lord's Prayer and the Creed – Ann noted that Fr. Ted wanted to say the Creed so everyone could participate. Singing it is actually an anomaly according to Fr. Gregory, so we can continue to recite it instead.

Wellness Checks

David Avdakov spoke with Maria Brausch regarding the idea of reaching out to people who have not been attending regularly to check in. David Short suggested a general announcement. Council determined the best way to attack the situation is to pass these names along to Fr. Gregory. A bulletin announcement will be posted regarding this new practice.

Annual Parish Meeting Review

All went well.

Audit Review

A parishioner suggested having the audit be done in advance. Kerrie responded noting the difficulties with this approach. David suggested moving the target date away from the first quarter to make it more feasible for the auditors. Additionally, we need to make a report to the parish when the audit is complete. David Short is going to make a recommendation via email regarding the actual text of the bylaws.

Investments

Ann reported that the CD investments that were previously approved were completed a week ago. Ann used \$25,000 to purchase 5 CDs. David Avdakov noted that we would need to update the signature form for the CDs each year. David Avdakov will send that information to Bruce Garber. Kerrie is going to create a voucher to make sure this transaction is accounted for.

David Avdakov asked if we should talk about stocks this year. Council decided to table this discussion until the planning meeting.

Counting Function

Bruce has created a new spreadsheet for the counters to make the counting easier and decrease errors. Bruce will work with the counters to initiate for a few weeks.

Birthday and Anniversaries

Erin stopped including this in the bulletin. Janine Elash suggested singing Many Years once a month to celebrate everyone who has a birthday in that month. Fr. Gregory has agreed to do Many Years once a month; Fr. Gregory will reach out to Janine Elash.

Parish Cleaning Days

We need to set the Nativity cleaning day. Council decided to set it for the Saturday prior to Nativity – Dec. 21st.

Darkness to Light

David Short was supposed to reach out to Mary Kay, but he has not, so he will do that now. Father Gregory will be updated on this as information becomes available.

Fr. Ted's Car Insurance

We kept Non-Owned Liability insurance. Everything is complete on this process.

Facilities Committee

Bruce wants to fix up the tables and chairs outside. Options were discussed.

Icon Cleaning

Bruce will ask Mark Stokoe to clean the icon of Christ above the candle box in the foyer.

Snow Removal

Bruce got a quote from Persnickty about snow removal (attached). Council discussed options. Because the quote for salting is exorbitant, council decided Bruce will get a second quote.

Floor Waxing

We will do it the week after Thanksgiving. We will break down the tables Sunday after Liturgy and set them up the following week either after Vespers or before Liturgy.

Companion Book to Music

Parishioner requested a book with the music. Erin and Ann suggested perhaps having people join the choir. It would be too difficult to create and maintain a book of this sort.

Communicating Orthodoxy to Children

Bruce asked Father Gregory about items that can help parents of young children communicate the Orthodox faith. Council discussed potentially having more items in the book store for children but ultimately determined that most parents are buying these items online. WPAFB

We don't have an outreach to Wright Patterson and Bruce would like to. Many suggested Bruce reach out to current military families to find out if there is a chaplain at the base and if there needs to be a larger St. Paul's presence.

First Confession Icon

The bylaws state that we shall provide an icon to children for their first confession. Council discussed many options for how to accomplish this and whether it was necessary or feasible. Heather moved to eliminate First Confession Icon Section 1.5.3. David Avdakov seconded. David Short will change this and review the other policies.

Cookies for St. Vincent de Paul

Friday of Thanksgiving.

St. Mary's Choir CD Sale

Erin suggested ordering 10. Erin will discuss this with Kerrie and order it out.

David Short moved. Heather seconded.

Closing Prayer

Fr. Gregory led St. Simeon's closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Action Items

David Short

- Eliminate First Confession Icon Section 1.5.3 and review other policies.
- Reach out to Mary Kay regarding Darkness to Light and review findings with Fr. Gregory.
- David Short is going to make a recommendation via email regarding the actual text of the bylaws.

Bruce Garber

- Reach out to current military families to find out if there is a chaplain at the base and if there needs to be a larger St. Paul's presence.
- Ask Mark Stokoe to clean the icon of Christ above the candle box in the foyer.

David Avdakov

- Eliminate First Confession Icon Section 1.5.3 and review other policies.
- Send the information regarding the CD account signature form to Bruce Garber.

Kerrie Wiese

- Kerrie is going to create a voucher to make sure the CD transaction it accounted for.

Erin Caldwell

- Create bulletin announcement instructing people to inform Fr. Gregory of people who have been missing church so he can reach out to them.

Fr. Gregort

- Reach out to Janine Elash regarding singing Many Years once a month.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Ratified: ____/____/____