

Saint Mark Orthodox Church

Semi- Annual Meeting Minutes

Sunday, May 15, 2022

OFFICERS: Father Gregory Safchuk, President Wayne Tatusko, Vice President Karen Phinney, Treasurer Sharon Carter, and Secretary Debbi Dillon

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Sarah Borger, Gene Jacobsen, Kyra Smerkanich, Marcella Hydock, Martha Baxtresser, Mihail Mihailov, Tom Jenkins.

[Note: the meeting was held both in person and via Zoom and was recorded]

I. OPENING PRAYER: Father Gregory led the opening prayer at 11:35AM

II. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: Kyra Smerkanich moved to accept the November 2021 Annual minutes; Shirley Dean seconded. Motion carried.

III. RECTOR'S REPORT: Father Gregory – Most of his address is in the read-ahead packet. Father added his gratitude to the clergy who stepped in while he was recovering from Covid.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Wayne Tatusko – read-ahead report

V. TREASURER'S REPORT: Sharon Carter highlighted several items including 2021 profit and loss sheet, expenditures for 2021, iconography donations, and Bazaar totals. We received a couple of generous donations via Schwab and that helped us to exceed our budget for 2021. Sharon summarized the account for iconography up through April 2022. Joan Mitchum asked what the donations to Orphanage of Hope were. Wayne explained that this an orphanage in Albania started by OCMC missionaries. Mark Phinney moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Tina Burpee seconded. Motion carried.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

1. **50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** – Sharon Carter - we have selected the theme “A Bountiful Harvest of Faith” for our celebrations on Sept 17th and 18th. The “save the date” flyers have gone out and we will be sending special invitations to former St. Mark clergy and their families. On Saturday morning we will have a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at St. Mark, followed by a catered reception at St. Bartholemew's parish hall. Fr. Mark Kozak will MC the festivities at the reception. On Sunday we will have another Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and family fun activities after liturgy with an enhanced coffee hour. We have a list with sign up sheets for people to volunteer. There are many places people can volunteer to help. Please join us in making this a great celebration.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS-

- **Iconography** - Paulina Masick – Father has spoken with Dmitri and we had a zoom meeting with him. We have asked him to finish the Nave first and then do the Creation icon in the vestibule. He sent a sketch, and the committee has approved it. He hopes to begin the work in January 2023. We still need to raise funds for the iconography project.
 - **Bells** - Tom Jenkins – Tom shared with us the example of the bell housing kiosk to show how it will look. Tom hopes to have it finished and bells installed by the 50th anniversary. Shirley Dean asked what the size of the structure is. Tom said it will be 4 feet deep by 6 feet wide and placed in the courtyard near the garden area. Paulina Maskick asked if anything will go into the bell tower. The plan is to get a single bell for the tower, and it would be rung occasionally. Shirley Dean asked about the sound quality since it will be in a wooden structure. Tom explained that we had a meeting with Alex Woodhill, who formerly worked with Blagovest Bells, and he gave them advice about location and the structure. Mark Phinney said he is collecting names of those interested in learning to ring. Alex Woodhill has agreed to come out to help teach a class. It could be a great ministry for our parish. He hopes to have 4 teams of people ringing the bells including adults and teens. Larisa Looby asked about when the bells would be rung. Father said it would be rung as the service is starting, for Pascha, and perhaps other major Feast days.
 - **PEWS** – Wayne Tatusko - We have signed a contract and the hope is that they will be installed just before the 50th anniversary. We have also signed the contract for the carpeting, and they will work together with the pew company on installation. The total for both the pews and the carpeting is about \$70,000. We already received a generous donation of \$30,000 toward the pews. Wayne asked parishioners to prayerfully consider donating toward this project.
3. **BAZAAR** – Wayne Tatusko – Last year’s Bazaar went so well even though we were still dealing with Covid. He thanked Tina Burpee and those who helped make it successful
4. **OTHER OLD BUSINESS** -none

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

1. **AUDITOR’S REPORT** – Jack Albert – Lori & Rob Hottle and Jack completed the audit for 2020 and will have 2021 completed in approximately a month. There were some adjustments to the report and some line-items were changed on the profit/loss. There were some adjustments to the financial statements and adjustments to classifications. There was an issue with the diocesan checks that were fraudulently cashed in 2019. It was corrected in 2020. Another issue is stale checks that haven’t been cashed. If, for whatever reason, they have not been cashed within a 12 month period it was recommended that it be returned to income for the church. Jack thanked Sharon for her help with the audit.

2. **BAZAAR** – We plan to have the Bazaar again this year. There will be more information coming soon.
3. **SAVINGS IN FATHER’S HEALTH CARE** – Last year, Father’s health insurance was a little over \$30,000. This year Father joined Medicare and it means the health insurance cost will be reduced. Mka. Sasha will also go on Medicare in July. Given the savings that the parish will receive, Wayne would like to have any savings from the change in health care be revised to be salary to Father at the end of the year. Mark Phinney moved that we apply any excess money from health care savings toward Father’s salary. John Sokich seconded. Motion carried.
4. **LOAN EXTENSION** Wayne Tatusko. – The parish loan will be due in mid 2023. The current interest is 4.5% with a monthly payment of approximately \$3700. Wayne contacted the bank to see if they would extend the loan and reduce the interest rate and we would agree to leave the monthly payment the same. The bank agreed to extend the loan and reduce the interest rate. There will be small paperwork fee. Mark Phinney moved that we move forward to extend the loan for 7 years and reduce the rate to 4.15% on a 20 year amortization schedule. Shirley Dean seconded. Motion carried.
5. **DISTINGUISHED DIOCESAN BENEFACTORS** – Tom Jenkins – this is a fund that is organized out of the diocese of Washington. In the past we have heard appeals for this fund. It gives clergy support, sends youth on missions, and supports the Diocesan choir. Because our diocese is hosting the AAC, the diocese has been asked to help with clergy in Alaska to be able to travel to the AAC. Some have never been able to travel to an AAC. Tom and Mihail have flyers if anyone is interested in giving towards this need. Tom and Mihail are happy to answer any question people may have. Mihail will be sending out something to the Friends list.
6. **OTHER NEW BUSINESS** –
 - Father wanted to thank Don Truitt for providing our parish with tomato plants.
 - Tina Burpee informed the parish that the stainless-steel refrigerator in the back room is not working. She will try to see if it can be fixed but we may need to replace it.
 - Wayne reminded the parish that all the officers and almost all the council will be stepping down at the end of this year. Please prayerfully consider filling one of these vacancies.
7. **DATE OF THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING** – Nov. 20, 2022

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: Shirley Dean moved to adjourn; Mark Phinney seconded. Motion carried.

Father Gregory closed the meeting with “Shine, Shine” at 12:16PM

Respectfully submitted by,

Debbi Dillon

St Mark Council Secretary