

St. Mary Orthodox Christian Church Parish Council Meeting
October 21, 2021

The regular meeting of the Parish Council of St. Mary Orthodox Christian Church was held in the church library on October 21, 2021. Chairman TC Wallace called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. A quorum was present. Fr. Aaron Warwick led the council in an opening prayer.

Council members in attendance were:

Father Aaron Warwick

TC Wallace	Chairman	(initial two-year term ends 12/21)
Darren Minks	Treasurer	(second two-year term ends 12/22)
Helen Stitt	Secretary	(two-year appointment term ends 12/22)
Ken Dannenberg		(second two-year term ends 12/21)
Jason Ewertt		(initial two-year term ends 12/21)
Laura Stanley		(two-year appointment term ends 12/21)
Sarah Wagner		(initial two-year term ends 12/21)
Michael Zarich		(initial two-year term ends 12/22)

The following council member was absent:

Tracy Namee	Vice Chair	(second two-year term ends 12/22)
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The minutes of the September 16, 2021 regular meeting were reviewed. Ken Dannenberg moved and Laura Stanley seconded that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.

Priest's Report

The November calendar was reviewed. The following events were highlighted:

1. November 5-6 – We have been invited to a retreat at St. Michael's
2. November 7 – Parish Annual Meeting
3. November 15 – Advent Fast begins
4. There will be Paraklesis services on Mondays during the Advent Fast
5. There may be some changes to the schedule during the week of Thanksgiving once Father Aaron knows what his plans are for the holiday.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Darren Minks reported that September was a good month for tray and pledge collections. Total collections for 2021 are up around \$30,000 higher than in 2020. Expenses are showing a positive \$6,600 variance in the utilities budget line item. 2021 is looking at a currently-projected \$60,000 surplus, which is reflected in the PPP loan, strong tray & pledge collections, and the Mediterranean Festival.

Mike Zarich moved and Sarah Wagner seconded that the financial report be approved. Motion carried.

2022 Proposed Budget

Treasurer Darren Minks presented the 2022 proposed budget with the following highlights:

- *Income has been projected at \$245,000 (up from \$235,000 budgeted for 2021, but slightly lower than current year projections, to be conservative).
- *Mediterranean Festival is projected for \$38,000 (up from \$35,000 budgeted for 2021,

but below the \$43,291 actual profit in 2021).

*Expenses: Priest compensation stayed the same as 2021. Compensation for Curt Ratliff and Chris Pearce reflect a \$9,000 combined increase.

*The Archdiocese Assessment was increased to reflect 10% of 2021's projected income.

*Insurance fees reflect an expected inflation increase.

*Increased gas prices were considered and factored into the utilities budget line item.

*Projected increased expenses are due to utilities and raises in staff compensation.

Helen Stitt moved and Sarah Wagner seconded that we accept the 2022 proposed budget and submit it for approval at the parish annual meeting. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Air lock door: No new report

Action Item: TC Wallace will visit with Jerry Stitt about a possible reference to contact for the job.

90th Anniversary 2022: Laura Stanley reported that fundraising ideas will be presented to the parish at the annual meeting on November 7.

Contributions from the Rollins family in honor of Dn. James and Sh. Rosemary:
Window tinting was installed. Keep on the agenda until all funds are spent.

Ministry Team Showcase: The Showcase will be on October 24 after Liturgy.

New Business:

Kelly and Xochitl Hewitt requested the use of the kitchen for the preparation of food for the wedding reception for their son, Owen. Robbie Namee, chair of the Kitchen Ministry Team, was contacted about this request and gave her approval pending the Council's approval. The parish council approved this request.

Food for the Annual Meeting:

Sarah Wagner moved and Darren Minks seconded that 20 pizzas be purchased from Little Caesar's at Central and West Street at a cost not to exceed \$200. Motion carried. Laura Stanley will pick up the pizzas on November 7.

Action Item: TC Wallace will have Chris Pearce order and pay for the pizzas over the phone. Chris will also contact Marie Patterson since she has coffee hour on that day.

Parishioner Submitted Items:

Sarah Wagner reported that the Belles will coordinate with Chris Pearce when there isn't a family having coffee hour. The Belles will provide the coffee hour on those Sundays. There was a concern that the Ministry Team information was hard to read on the Online Directory. There also needs to be a reminder from Fr. Aaron on how to access the directory.

Action Item: Sarah Wagner will work with Chris Pearce to correct the readability of the Ministry Team information on the Online Directory.

Action Item: Fr. Aaron will send out a reminder on how to access the Online Directory.

Review of P.C. Calendar

October

- *Pay Diocesan dues: completed
- *Present and approve budget
- *Review 3rd quarter financial information
- *Pay Seminary Fund obligation: being collected
- *Letter on Stewardship to parish: TC will send in November
- *Order calendars for the new year: ordered
- *Christmas Program & Party: scheduled
- *Annual property inspection
- *Parish Retreat: Fr Aaron will contact Dr. Bradley Nassif

November

- *Parish Council elections
- *Pay Diocesan Mission Fund obligation
- *Parish Retreat
- *Solicit donations for Christmas flowers
- *Christmas gifts
- *Prepare Holy Bread sign-up book
- *Winter help for the elderly
- *Choir/Chanter Appreciation (2nd Sunday of December)
- *Church Hall after the Christmas Liturgy

Parish Ministry Teams

PC Liaison

Ministry Team Chair

Membership / Stewardship

Fr. Aaron

Fr. Aaron

Father Aaron reported that he and TC Wallace will be getting the annual letter out to the parish.

Public Relations/Website

Fr. Aaron

Justine Nightingale

The new website is up and running. The official countdown for the Mediterranean Festival has been included!

Family Promise

Fr. Aaron

Vicki Jones

The annual Gala is on Thursday, October 28, and a few tickets are still left.

Prison Ministry Team

Fr. Aaron

Fr. Aaron

Father Aaron visited Ellsworth on October 18.

Matthew 5:4

Fr. Aaron

Cathy Fairbanks

No report

Visitations

Fr. Aaron

Rick Husselman

No report.

Properties

TC Wallace

Nick Steinbrink

New quarter-round will be installed at the baseboards to fill in the space in between the carpet and the existing baseboards.

Education

Ken Dannenberg Justine Nightingale

Justine is frustrated with the attendance and late arrivals. She sent out an email to encourage better attendance and arrival times.

Humanitarian

Tracy Namee Joan Ferris

No report.

Missions

Tracy Namee Tracy Namee

No report

Christ the Savior Academy

Tracy Namee No Chair

No report

Interiors

Tracy Namee Tracy Namee

No report

Kitchen

Tracy Namee Robbie Namee

No report

Belles of St. Mary

Helen Stitt Robbie Namee

There will be a committee of Belles to help provide snacks for coffee hour when there isn't someone signed up to do it. They believe this is very important for fellowship after Liturgy. They continue to work on their Bake Sale project.

The Scroll

Laura Stanley Sh. Ro Kallail

The Scroll will be online October 22.

Teen SOYO

Laura Stanley Laura Stanley

A pumpkin patch/corn maze activity is planned with St. George on October 30.

Choir

Jason Ewertt Michael Shaheen

No report

The Treehouse

Darren Minks Darren Minks

The Treehouse is in need of a new Executive Director.

Greeters

Sarah Wagner Vicki Jones

The greeters would like to continue to use the small table to display the bulletins. This is especially helpful when there isn't a greeter on duty.

Meal Train

Sarah Wagner Jessica Lessman

No report

Small Groups

Sarah Wagner Cliff Bragg

Sarah reported that the group will meet on October 24. They are working on a date for the November gathering so that it doesn't conflict with Thanksgiving weekend.

Major Fund Raisers

No report

Mike Zarich

Mike Zarich

Purchasing

No report

Mike Zarich

Robbie Namee

Father Aaron left the meeting during the following discussion.

Ken Dannenberg moved and Jason Ewertt seconded that we give Father Aaron Warwick a \$6,000 bonus from the 2021 budget, to be paid by the end of 2021 from the general checking account. Motion carried. Father Aaron was informed of this decision upon his return to the meeting and thanked the Council for the generous bonus.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be November 18 at 5:30 p.m.

Mike Zarich moved and Sarah Wagner seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. with Father Aaron giving a closing prayer and blessing.