

Parish Council Meeting June 5 2022 1240 PM

Present Father Joel Gilliam, Gary Sarkessian, Tony Nasr, Joe Solomon, Alexander Ibrahim, Maricia Binder Ibrahim, Lucy Ibrahim, Ed Donahue, Kerry San Chirico, Jerome Burke
Guest Joseph Nasif

I Call to order and prayer - Fr. Joel

II Motion to approve April 10, 2022 PC minutes - Kerry S- second Ed D

III Pastor's Report - Plan for 3 Weddings this calendar year and 1 Baptism this Spring
- Alex Family - Catechumens at this time receiving instruction
- Bible Study with Fr Joel underway - sessions on the first and third Wednesday of the month
Book of Genesis is being reviewed at this time- link is on the parish website calendar
- Fr encouraging PC members and parishioners to attend the the Parish Life Conference to be held at the Antiochian Village June 29 - July 3 if even for part of the time to foster fellowship with other Antiochian Parishes - registration details available on our web site - and PLC website - deadline is June 15 to register
- Meeting planned for PC members and all involved in leading ministries team for Saturday August 13 2022 in anticipation of the liturgical year beginning September 2022 to set up a "master calendar" and efficient scheduling - will help to avoid concurrent philanthropic events

IV. Chairman's Report – Alex I - will hold comments for item in new business regarding assessment

V. Treasurer's report - please see attached - monthly and yearly summary provided
- Budget report to be provided on a Quarterly Basis - next installment - late June
- Insurance payments are up to date
- Motion made by Alex I to approve Treasurer's report - seconded by Jerome B - no objections

VI. Committee Reports -

- A. Hospitality Team - Ed D – Plan to make coffee hour on the last Sunday of each month a "potluck" event
- Assignment of readers and greeters can be found in the parish newsletter- may be helpful to place on the parish calendar as well
- B. St Katherine Women - Cythia Long will be representing our parish at the Parish Life Conference this month - otherwise no new reports
- C. Maintenance Committee - Gary S - see attached report – appreciate Joe Solomon's efforts to fix the leak in the Men's Bathroom
- Church cleaning schedule is Tuesday - for 1.5 hours - Arrangements can be made for additional cleaning for special events - i.e Weddings and Baptisms
- 75 dollar weekly fee - felt to be very reasonable with good quality of work
- problem with the roof fixed for 1300 dollars - under 1800 dollar that was budgeted

- Ladies room BR problem - toilets work well but need to hold down handle for extended time especially for solid waste

D. Sunday School – Caroline B - school year is over - possible plans for potluck get together for students

E. Choir - Matt G -no new report

F. Icon Committee - Kerry S.C- table discussion pending discussion on assessment of the building

G. Adult Christian Education - Kerry S.C. -Consider for seminar in the fall - Topic -

“ Global Orthodoxy “ -early stages of planning exploring traditions and growth worldwide- Africa, Far East and Americas -

H- Teen Soyo – plan for possible Career Fair - ask for volunteers from the Parish

Fr Joel suggested availability internships with Fr Paul Abernathy - Pittsburgh PA- in underserved neighborhoods

I Long Range Planning Committee - Alex and Maricia – recently formed -see section under new business -

-so far Alex and Maricia have been involved in new committee– open to anyone on PC or in the parish who wishes to be involved -

-Joe S suggested that this be a “ Standing Committee “ with more input than from a limited number members given the complexity and importance of future decisions

New Business -

1. Father Joel - Motion proposed financial support for 2 parish members to attend the Parish Life Conference to attend to cover cost of room and board - unanimously approved

2. Motion - Ed D - made motion to publish a roster of committee members that would be available to PC members and the entire parish -unanimously approved

3. Point of Question / Information - Lucy I – distribution of holy bread with priest providing- is this going to continue as opposed a common basket

-Has been advised by Bishop Thomas to continue this practice in light of the pandemic to minimize exposure to COVID

(Technical term for holy bread is “Anti Thora “ translates to “ in place of the gifts “ - primarily for those who have not received communion - but custom had evolved to include everyone)

-Fr Joel will inquire at the PL Conference this months with Church Hierarchy if this practice is to continue

4 .Discussion with respect to the Long Range Planning Committee- - Alex I

Desire by committee to take inventory and explore the question “ What is the Church and adjacent properties worth” -

Maricia I had contact with Catholic Archdioceses Office personnel who are involved with the assessment, buying and selling of churches and church properties

Extensive Documents to PC were distributed prior to meeting

-Conclusions - Church property would be valued much higher if sold as a commercial property as opposed to selling to another Church

- Land purchased Wawa across the street sold for 2.2 million several years ago - value for St George lot may be considerably less by virtue of the fact the the lot is smaller, topography of the land is less favorable and demolition costs - may be higher -

Potential positive factors on a sale could be that Wawa is adjacent and market demands have been peaking in recent months for properties

Alex I - posed the question " Do we want to decide on proceeding with possible sale and move of the church or review what needs to be done and financial commitment to improve the present plant "- later would cost in the hundreds of thousands of dollars

-Reviewed comps church values in Philadelphia and adjacent South Jersey

-Father Joel - advised Gary S has a list of the physical needs of the church - presently we do not have enough information to make the decision at this time to explore decision of listing the property

- need more hard numbers with respect to repair costs for St George and potential costs for buying property to build a new church or purchase an existing church

- need to know more details to do a proper cost-benefit analysis

-would need input by entire parish and any sale would need approval by Metropolitan Joseph

- Not in a position to take a " motionable action " at the present time to have Catholic Archdiocese do a more formal assessment and possible listing

-Gary S- reviewed many problems with the physical plant (HVAC, Hadicapped Access wall plastering - front door of the church ,bathrooms, parking ect)- had been working on a development committee which has not gained traction over the past 3 years - provided his perspective - also advised that preset value of the church may be at a high point now

-if we stay need a vision for the future - what is the outlook for 3 years, 5 years and 10 years

Joe S - advised to seek counsel from contacts with law firms, township officials, and real estate developers - he has worked with these agents in the past and will obtain advice

-advise a focus group to present findings to the parish

- need to do a geographic analysis of parish members to explore if keeping the church in Upper Darby vs moving to the suburbs - J Solomon will have son access to an updated parish directory to do data analysis

Tony N - advised that already significant plant improvements have been made in recent years - 100,000 for the roof - 15,000 for rectory roof and other sums to improve the parking lot

Fr Joel - has advised that it has been difficult in recent years to get parishioners involved in committees for multiple reasons

5. Joseph Nasif - provided historical perspective with respect to decision by church leaders to sell St George's in Philadelphia in and move to Upper Darby in 1972

Move help revitalize the health of the church and the finances were very favorable at the time

VII - Motion to Adjourn -Alex I - seconded Fr Joel - 210 pm

Closing Prayers

