

St George Orthodox Church

Parish Council Meeting

March 12, 2023

Members present - Fr. Joel Gillam, Gary Sarkessian, Alex Ibrahim, Joe Solomon, Lucy Ibrahim, Kerry San Chirico, Gus Haddad, Michael Solomon, Emma Ibrahim , Maricia Ibrahim, Jerome Burke- Guest- Joe Solomon (younger)

- I. Call to Order and opening prayer -Fr Joel
- II. Approval of January PC minutes - Fr. Joel, seconded Alex- unanimously approved
- III. Pastor's Report- Fr Joel
 - A. Lenten Mission Vesper's scheduled for 4 pm March 26 - St George is hosting -food provided
 - B. Father Joel and Joe Solomon - replaced the the utility switches throughout the building
 - C. Direct Energy will be our utility contractor replacing PECO for more favorable rates
 - D. Roxie Harne proposed creating a space for infants and toddlers in the Church Hall -she is willing to donate - gate, rug ect.
 - E. Fr . to place order for St George Icons for catechumen families and groups coming into the Church
 - F. Fr expressed " Thank You " to the PC for gift for Bishop Thomas during his recent visit and holiday gift to Fr Joel and increase in his stipend
 - G. Suggestion by Gary S to provide catechumens with approved books to introduce them to the faith from the PC- can use Sunday School and education funds -reasonable to proceed with this idea
 - H. Fr Joel proposed having an IPAD at in the Church to improve communications with PC President and other tasks - when not able to meet directly - Lucy I - donating an IPAD she has available
- IV. Chairman's Report - Alex Ibrahim
 - A. Thank you to Marcia Ibrahim for her leadership in chairing the Long Range Planning Committee and getting the committee " off the ground " She will be stepping down in this capacity but will continue as a member - Joe Solomon (younger) has been appointed the new chairman
 - B. Reminder to email committee membership lists so they can be assembled in a Global Excel document
 - C. Recent Zoom meeting with Ed Donahue's brother who is a CPA in the D.C. area- topics reviewed setting up a 501(c) 3 account which requires minimal

paperwork and limited filings while affording other protections and benefits to religious institutions

- E. Caitlin Gordon informed Father that she cannot fill the position of Special Projects manager - (fund raising, grant proposals) - had previously allocated 15 hours per week - Christiana will continue in her role of facilitating communications with Father , providing the newsletter, and scheduling tasks -discussion ensued of finding someone else to perform duties that Caitlin's positions was going to address
- F. Meal Train Discussion - open to any family in the parish with a recent birth

V. Treasurer's Report - Tony Nasr (not in attendance)- see attached report

- A. \$1850 collected in February and sent to the Archdiocese for he Turkey/Syrian Earthquake relief fund - \$350 collected so far in March
- B. Upper Darby Township Sewer fee (\$ 260 times 3 -\$ 780) and Real Estate Taxes \$828.75 pain
- C. Collections for Seminarians mixed with general collection for March 5 - \$ 475.00
 - Could not differentiate - minimal for Archdiocese appeal- is \$ 250.-
 - Proposed that half the proceeds collected above 250 be sent to the Archdiocese
- D. On Line Giving - accounts for 28.6 % receivables YTD
- E. \$ 1000.00 allocated for gift for Bishop Thomas -per 2023 budget

VI. Committee Reports

- 1. Teen Soyo - Alex I -
 - Annual Meatfare Luncheon - very successful - and personally uplifting for the teens raised \$ 700 - half to charity- and half to SOYO account
 - Day of Service - planned for future likely with Caring for Friends in North Philadelphia
- 2. Stewardship Committee- Jerome Burke
 - attempting to recruit committee members with Fr Joel's blessing
 - plan to sponsor coffee hour in the future emphasizing Stewardship Themes
 - reviewed scope of goals for the committee
- 3. St Katherine Women - Cynthia Long - not in attendance
 - report provided - greeters schedule and epistle readers for March - Antiochian Women's Month
 - reminder to help with meal train for Deacon Joseph, Rebecca and family
- 4. Maintenance Committee – Gary S.
 - cleanup day scheduled for Saturday March 18 - list of projects provided by Gary

- Replacement of HVAC units 1 and 2- Joe Solomon (Sr.) provided extensive review of options and costs - contractor Anthony willing to start the project within the week –option # 3 as outlined in previous emails has been recommended and approved- cost \$21,300 - includes a 1 year warranty on labor and 10 year on parts provided a residential address is listed(-Parish Rectory) — appropriate for use and capacity of the units
- plan to get non- functioning kitchen freezer out of the building and disposed
- estimate will be obtained to repair Annex steps later this spring as weather improves

5. Adult Education - Kerry San Chirico

- Continuing with book review Wednesday evenings on “ The Life of Moses “
- Spring Retreat plans for April 21/22 in final stages - second speaker from Africa should be firmed up in the coming days - PC members encouraged to attend and support

6. Icon Committee- Kerry San Chirico

- Contacting Nick Papas - Iconographer to come and affix the new icons
- Committee has commissioned Nick to begin work on 2 Armenian Saints (St. Hripsime and St. Gregory the Illuminator - both from Cappadoicia - donated By Gary S.

7. Long Range Planning Committee- Joe Solomon (younger) - calander set for upcoming meetings- next in person meeting Sunday March 26 after Liturgy

- Set schedule for Zoom 3rd Monday evening of the month and quarterly on Sundays in person

VII. Old Business- None

VIII. New Business - No voting proposals

XI. Adjourn- unanimously approved and Closing Prayer - Fr Joel