



Holy Myrrhbearers

ORTHODOX MISSION

Parish Council Meeting
Sunday 16 October 2016 - 12.30pm to 1.30pm

Parish Council Attendance:

- Parish Priest, the Very Rev Geoffrey Ready
- Warden, Michael Dubinski
- Deputy Warden, Bernadette Voulgaris
- Treasurer, Jean Keen
- Social Convenor, Rachel Irene Cassar
- Secretary, Jacob McNair

Parish Member Attendance (Observers):

- Jolan Ready
- Christos Voulgaris
- Lara Hunt
- David Hunt

1. **Opening prayer**

The meeting was opened with prayer.

2. **Regrets**

Fr Geoffrey noted the resignation of Roshan Carpenter as Mission Coordinator owing to the time commitment involved.

3. **Minutes from previous meeting on 21 August 2016**

Motion to adopt minutes by Bernadette Voulgaris, seconded by Jacob McNair, passed unanimously.

4. **Matters arising**

None.

5. **Correspondence**

(a) Fr Geoffrey read a letter from the secretary of the Archdiocese of Canada requesting that parishes raise money for Orthodox theological education on 2 October. In absence of a meeting, Fr Geoffrey decided that the parish's work in supporting the Orthodox School of Theology at Trinity College could be considered to fulfill the request, and agreed with Michael to draft a letter to the Archdiocese to this end.

Action: Fr Geoffrey to assist Michael with drafting and sending a letter to Anna Miller, archdiocesan secretary

(b) Fr Geoffrey announced that the next Archdiocesan Assembly will occur 25-28 July 2017, in Edmonton, preceded by a clergy synaxis on 24 July. Fr Geoffrey must attend but parishes are encouraged to send lay delegate as well if affordable. The parish council indicated interest in sending a delegate, so Fr Geoffrey proposed to elect lay delegate at the January AGM and pray about a selection in the meantime, which was met with general agreement.

Action: Parish AGM to elect lay delegate to Archdiocesan Assembly

(c) Fr Geoffrey announced that the signs advertising the mission outside the Trinity College Chapel (immediately under Trinity's sign and with the same design) arrived over weekend but have not been installed yet. Fr Geoffrey explained that the services are attributed to Orthodox School of Theology for PR purposes (but the website immediately provides links to Fr Geoffrey and Holy Myrrhbearers). As the mission is paying for the two signs (\$300 each) Trinity have agreed not to charge the parish any rent until the time of the signs' installation. Chris Voulgaris further proposed a standing banner to go outside the interior chapel door; Fr Geoffrey agreed to look into printing costs.

Action: Fr Geoffrey to design roll-up banner and enquire into printing costs

6. Finance report

Treasurer Jean Keen presented and explained the finance report as of 30 September (see attached), with the balance sheet totalling \$5,254.13, and the parish's net income from May to September amounting to \$2,285.72. There was some discussion of the one-time expenses on furniture and liturgical items; Fr Geoffrey noted that chapel decoration is largely complete, but that Alexandra Cumby is working on painting a large icon of the *Platytera* (the Sign of the Theotokos, 'more spacious than the heavens') to cover the bas-relief images over the high altar. Alexandra would be compensated for the materials used.

7. Mission Coordinator and Committee

The council discussed replacing Roshan as Mission Coordinator. Fr Geoffrey suggested that Mission Coordinator might not be a necessary position, since it was intended to be the Mission Committee's representative to the parish council, and the two bodies' memberships will overlap significantly anyway. The council agreed to table the issue till the Mission Committee's meeting next week, suggesting that committee might be better placed to decide whether it wants a representative on the parish council.

Action: Fr Geoffrey to report back following mission committee's meeting

8. Insurance

Jean announced that she had spoken to Byron Yankou, who said that actually submitting an application was necessary to get a quote on insurance policies but provided an estimate of \$2,000-4,000 per year (Bernadette had similar results through her own investigations). Byron disputed whether abuse insurance was necessary since the parish has no Sunday school, and Rachel also questioned the utility of a corporate liability policy. The council agreed that Byron was more helpful than Bernadette's sources and more likely to get a good deal as a broker, including verifying which policies are necessary.

Action: Jean and Bernie to complete the application form and report back to parish council on insurance quotes received

9. **Archpastoral visit in 2017**

Fr Geoffrey announced that Paul Ladouceur's conversations with Archbishop Irénée in Québec have raised the possibility of an archpastoral visit in the coming year, and explained that an invitation is necessary so the parish needs to decide on a date. Fr Geoffrey suggested our patronal feast, the third Sunday of Pascha, the feast of the Holy Myrrhbearers (falling on 30 April 2017). It was agreed to invite the archbishop on that weekend, and to book the chapel for Saturday evening Vespers. There was discussion concerning chapel scheduling given the coincidence of western Easter and Orthodox Pascha in 2017; Fr Geoffrey explained that he has already coordinated a schedule of Holy Week and Pascha services in the chapel with the Anglicans.

Action: Fr Geoffrey to assist Michael with drafting and sending a letter to His Eminence Archbishop Irénée to invite him to visit 29-30 April 2017

10. **Upcoming events**

Fr Geoffrey reminded the council of the upcoming talk by Fr Daniel Byantoro on Tuesday 1 November at 7pm (held in conjunction with Orthodox Christian Fellowship).

11. **Any other business**

None.

12. **Next meeting**

The next parish council meeting will be planned to deal with the insurance issue once information is available.

13. **Closing prayer**

The meeting was closed with prayer.

