

Annual Parish Meeting
Russian Orthodox Cathedral of St. Nicholas
February 14, 2016
Draft Minutes

- Meeting brought to order by His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon at 1210
 - Claire Nobles, Parish Council President: 41 in attendance; 22 proxies held
 - A quorum is present
 - Nobles: Introduction of Parliamentarian Daniel Garrett
 - Professional Registered Parliamentarian
 - To serve as a resource concerning parliamentary procedure and help the meeting run smoothly.
- Approval of Agenda: Nobles
 - Motion to approve: Nina Shafran
 - 2nd: Samantha Cath
 - **Approved unanimously**
- Approval of 2015 Minutes: Nobles
 - Shafran: Correction to Page 1
 - Replace “agenda” with “minutes”
 - Paul Moser: Motion to approve
 - 2nd: Larry Harrison
 - **Approved unanimously**
- Approval of 2015 Special Meeting Minutes: Nobles
 - Motion to approve: Moser
 - 2nd: Mark Naydan
 - **Passed with 1 abstention**
- **Opening Remarks: Metropolitan Tikhon**
 - All American Council (ACC) statute for finance and stewardship is moving away from per capita assessments
 - Presented “Four Pillars” or areas of focus-taken from the image of the Altar Table
 - Spiritual Life
 - Evangelism
 - External Affairs
 - Stewardship
 - What would you-the parish-like to see done or what have we done referencing these areas? Discussion:
 - We had a successful Fall Bazaar
 - Welcoming of Georgetown OCF students
 - Different languages and calendars increase our numbers and makes us an “American” church

- Coffee hour/lunches bring the community together
 - Concerns about mixing of languages
 - Feel that those who live in the US should learn English. Very important that the church language be the local language.
 - Reaching out to non-English speakers through our Russian/Slavic services. OCA official languages are English, Spanish and French.
 - Sorry that language is still an issue. We must make more of an effort to accommodate those who speak other languages.
 - Would like to see more seminarians come to our services.
 - Slavic is antiquated
 - Dual languages can be a positive, assuring more participation
 - It may be harder for some to learn English. Has been her 16 years. Difficult to hear service in English and read it in Russian.
 - Our work with children is important. Makes them Christians for life.
- Met. Tikhon: Language will always be an issue. We should welcome the discussion. If it is a problem, it's because of us. Important to love our fellow man. Focus on the goal: to help ourselves and others grow closer to our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Nobles: Metropolitan has a gentle leadership style. Not forcing issues on the parish. Grateful for unifying us.
- **Clergy Reports:**
 - Fr. George: Thanks to the nominating committee and our parliamentarian
 - Recognized multiple languages as a strength. OCA serves in 14 languages
 - Look in your heart. If you see anger or resentment, find out why
 - Fr. Valery: Thanks to all for the past year; committee and parish council members
 - We need to follow our core, Christian values
- **President's Report**
 - Nobles: Thanks to our priests, parish council members and committees. More are getting involved. Thanks to those who organized the Bazaar.
- **Introduction of Candidates for President and Parish Council**
 - Shafran, Co-Chair: Thanks to co-Chair Candice Johnson and those who volunteered
 - Several provisions in the Bylaws may have to be suspended to bring the terms of Parish Council members in compliance with the Bylaws and to ensure the eligibility of all the candidates.
 - Election of the Parish Council President
 - Having served as PC President, she can only serve an additional 2 years.

- **Treasurer's Report**
 - Nino Willsea: Treasurer's report is in the meeting packet and will report upon completion of ballot counting.

- **Committee Reports**
 - Reports were distributed with meeting packets
 - No questions

- **Comments from Metropolitan Tikhon**
 - Questions/Comments from Parishioners:
 - Would like to see more adult education, possibly a weekday catechism
 - More visits from monastics; even non-OCA
 - Fr. George: Efforts underway to find good speakers
 - Nobles: Would like to find weekday speakers, not just Sundays
 - Propose streaming of services live and on YouTube
 - Would like to see programs for young boys on the responsibility of being altar servers
 - Met. Tikhon: Would like to assist with various parish activities
 - Appreciates our Sunday School. Need opportunities for young people
 - Appreciates opportunities for her daughter
 - Metropolitan Tikhon:
 - Visiting Church of Finland next week
 - Great and Holy Council in June to be held in Crete
 - OCA not invited as not universally recognized as an autocephalous church
 - OCA recognized worldwide in spite of canonical disputes
 - OCA viewed as a Russian church but we are the Church in America, having been providing for the needs of Americans for 200 years and 45 years of Autocephaly.
 - Question: What should the OCA expect from the Council?
 - Eight documents prepared
 - Nothing for the OCA to be hopeful for or afraid of.
 - No withdrawal or affirmation of autocephaly
 - Question: Is the OCA opening new churches
 - A dearth of churches in some areas
 - St. Nicholas Cathedral is a font from which new parishes are created
 - Recognize that members leave one parish for another
 - Discussion of Church in Mexico

- Question: Where can a parish member go to find the view of the OCA on world events; Supreme Court rulings, views on gay marriage?
 - Encyclicals on OCA website
 - OCA needs to prepare statements of legitimately held beliefs to address changes in the law.
 - Need to avoid marginalization in society and legal problems.
- **Election Results: Shafran**
 - President: Claire Nobles
 - 53 for, 4 against, 5 abstentions
 - Parish Council Members:
 - Robert Cowgill: 57 votes
 - Olga Zoltan: 54 votes
 - Larry Harrison: 53 votes
 - Elena Forrest: 52 votes
 - Viktoria Shalaginova: 49 votes
 - Paul Moser: 48 votes
 - Dan Schuresko: 45 votes
 - Walter Alesevich: 30 votes
 - Mark Naydan: 29 votes
 - Nobles: Declared the results as follows:
 - President: Nobles
 - Council Members: 3-year term
 - Cowgill
 - Zoltan
 - Harrison
 - Council Members: 2-year term
 - Forrest
 - Council Members: 1-year term
 - Shalaginova
 - Moser
 - Schuresko
 - Deputy Council Members:
 - Alesevich
 - Naydan
- **Closing Prayer: Metropolitan Tikhon**
- **Meeting adjourned at 1450**

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Cowgill, Secretary