

**St. Nicholas Cathedral
Orthodox Church in America
Washington, DC
2017 Annual Parish Meeting Minutes**

The 2017 Annual Parish Meeting of St. Nicholas Cathedral was called to order on Sunday, February 5, 2017 at 12:00 PM in the Cathedral nave. President Claire Nobles presided and 77 voting members were present: 65 in person and 12 by proxy.

Opening Prayer

His Beatitude, Tikhon led the meeting in an opening prayer.

Metropolitan Tikhon Opening Remarks

Thanks to Fathers George and Valery for their pastoral and administrative oversight. Also thanks to Fr's Denis and Yaroslav, Deacon Blagoje as well as to the Subdeacons, Readers and Altar Servers. Also thanks to the Parish Council for their contributions to the life of the Church. Thanks to all of you. It is encouraging to see such participation.

Our single mission: to be an icon of our Lord Jesus Christ to “pour forth the mission”. Christ needs our help in this. We do it for Christ and the Kingdom

Still focusing on four pillars:

- Spiritual Life
- Stewardship
- Evangelization and outreach
- External relations

Encourage your efforts toward these objectives. This is not a temporary effort but an eternal one.

A full cycle of services along with a beautiful choir require participation as part of our spiritual life.

Stewardship is what we do with those gifts that God has given us, whether we are working, retired and/or volunteering.

Evangelization is sharing our faith with the world around us throughout our daily lives and, when possible, sharing the Church with others. Take them to church and talk about our faith.

External relations is an effort to work with other Orthodox churches, faith communities along with governments and other institutions. Be “diplomats for Christ” and witness for Him. “There is no occupation that belittles a human being, only sin.”-Fr. Sophrony

We are looking for ideas to advance these pillars.

Introduction of Parliamentarian

President Nobles introduced Donald Garrett, a Professional Registered Parliamentarian, to the meeting. He was present to serve as a resource concerning parliamentary procedure and help the meeting run smoothly.

Approval of the Agenda.

Copies of the 2017 Annual Meeting notice and agenda were distributed. President Claire Nobles noted a small modification to the agenda to reflect Metropolitan Tikhon's Opening Remarks occurring after the Opening Prayer.

Motion to approve the agenda, as modified: Harrison 2nd: D'Arcangelo. Approved by voice vote.

Approval of 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes

President Nobles asked if there were any additions or corrections to the 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes. Secretary Bob Cowgill noted that the election of Irina Knyazev to the Parish Council was missing from the Minutes. By unanimous consent the minutes were amended to correct this deficiency.

Motion to approve the 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes, as amended: Burjanadze. 2nd: Paul Mosier. Approved by voice vote.

Minutes of the 2016 Special Meeting were not included in the packets distributed to the parish.

Clergy Remarks

Father George: Twenty two years ago, the iconography was completed and now repairs to that original work are being completed. This work could not be undertaken without the spiritual guidance of His Beatitude. As a Christian community, your time and talents are needed and appreciated.

Father Valery: Join with Fr. George in asking for your help in building the St. Nicholas community. Thanks to all of our committee members. There is no more important project than ourselves. We need to be with Christ and let us do even more this year.

President's Remarks

Each of us brings something to the Church. Nothing would be possible without your contributions working for the Body of Christ. Thanks to all.

Introduction of Candidates for Parish Council

Candice Johnson, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, was recognized to conduct the election and explain provisions of the Bylaws concerning the election. The Parish was to elect three members to the Parish Council with the 2 runner-ups becoming Deputy Council Members.

Candice Johnson introduced the candidates for Parish Council:

- Walter Alesevich
- Nino Burjanadze
- Dale Houser
- Alyssa McCrea
- Mark Naydan

The members were instructed to write up to 3 names on their orange ballots. President Nobles closed the polls and directed the ballots to be counted.

Repair of Steps and Bell Tower

Andonov made a presentation describing ongoing problems with the stairs and bell tower. Cracks and separations of the stairs are caused by water seeping under the stairs and washing away the soil. We have money for repairs although they could be delayed by one or maybe two years but not longer.

Question: How much? \$150,000-\$200,000. Planning takes approximately one year. Many have multiple contractors involved while Andonov will serve as the General Contractor

Discussion of stair and bell tower issues

- Have we investigated a settlement from earlier bell tower repairs which were inadequate?
 - Money for the bell tower came from all over the country. There was no warranty and has been repaired at least twice. We are unlikely to get compensation from the builder.
- Russin: Would it be appropriate to authorize \$25,000-\$50,000 for the initial engineering work?
- Pietrzykoski: Do we have a motion to fund repairs?
 - Harrison: No
- Houser: Should this be a motion to start research on alternatives for repairs, not as a motion to fund full repairs?
- Knyazev: Is the \$150,000-\$200,000 for the full repair or temporary?
 - Andonov: Full repairs of both stairs and bell tower

Alesevich moved, “that the Parish allocate \$25,000 to research potential repairs to the stairs, bell tower, and retaining wall and report back to a special parish meeting for further consideration.” 2nd: Russin.

Discussion

Alesevich: Amend motion to specify that the source of the funds would be the major repairs fund. 2nd: Russin

Approved on voice vote

Vote for Council Members

Candice Johnson, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, announced the following ballot counts for the Parish Council election:

Alyssa McCrea	54
Nino Burjanadze	50
Dale Houser	42
Walter Alesevich	40
Mark Naydan	26

President Nobles declared that Alyssa McCrea, Nino Burjanadze, and Dale Houser were elected Parish Council Members and that Walter Alesevich and Mark Naydan were elected Deputy Parish Council Members.

The ballots were placed in the custody of the Parish Council to be preserved for thirty days, after which time they will be destroyed if no election has been contested.

Selection of Auditors

President Nobles asked for volunteers and/or nominations for members of the Auditing Committee.

Naydan gave a brief description of the auditors duties and time commitments.

A parliamentary inquiry was asked concerning Mark Naydan's eligibility to serve on the Auditing Committee due to his election as a Deputy Council Member. President Nobles, through the Parliamentarian, responded as follows:

Although Article VII.1 of the Parish Bylaws states that members of the Parish Council cannot be members of the Auditing Committee, Article VI.1 does not include Deputy Council Members as part of the composition of the Parish Council. Therefore, a Deputy Council Member is eligible to serve on the Auditing Committee.

Alesevich moved to elect Mark Naydan, Andrea Lutov and Katherine Haines to the Auditing Committee. 2nd: Johnson. Motion passed by voice vote with one abstention.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Larry Harrison gave a report on the Parish's finances. Raising the salaries of our clergy closer to national standards is a priority.

Parish is moving to a fiscal year that commences on February 1 to better account for end of year giving and event income in the month of January.

We have a budget deficit in our planning but as we overcame a projected deficit in 2016, we can do it again this year.

Discussion:

Pietrzykoski: Need to talk about Sasha's (caretaker) retirement. Need someone on-site, full time and knowledgeable.

Mikhalevsky: No proposed budget in the packet. The OCA has increased funding requirements. Does the budget include this increase for 2017? Harrison: Budget for the fiscal year will be made available once the Parish Council votes to approve it. We are uncertain about the impact of the OCA funding change at this time.

Committee Reports

Committee reports were included in the meeting packet. Members were permitted to ask questions to any of the committee chairs.

Discussion of unity in the Orthodox Church in North America. We are seeking an administratively united church, but not eliminate ethnic distinctions.

Adjournment

His Beatitude led the meeting in a closing prayer.

Motion to adjourn: S. Cath. 2nd: Harrison. Passed on voice vote.

Adjourned at 1410

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Cowgill
Secretary

Approved:

Cathedral President

Priest in Charge

Date