

**St. Nicholas Cathedral
Orthodox Church in America
Washington, DC
2018 Annual Parish Meeting Minutes**

The 2018 Annual Parish Meeting of St. Nicholas Cathedral was called to order on Sunday, February 4, 2018 at 12:10 PM in the Cathedral nave. President Claire Nobles presided and 56 voting members were present: 40 in person and 16 by proxy.

Nobles introduced Donald Garrett, a Professional Registered Parliamentarian.

Opening Prayer

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

Approval of the Agenda.

Copies of the 2018 Annual Meeting notice and agenda were distributed. President Nobles asked that nominations of Lay Representatives for the 2018 All American Council be added to the agenda.

**Motion to approve the agenda, as amended: Mark Nydan. 2nd: Stephanie Slack.
Approved by voice vote.**

Approval of 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes

President Nobles asked if there were any additions or corrections to the 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes. None were offered

**Motion to approve the 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes: Alesevich. 2nd: James Slack.
Approved by voice vote.**

Metropolitan's Remarks

Offered thanks to the clergy of St. Nicholas Cathedral. A reminder that the All-American Council is being held in St. Louis in July. This is an important part of the life of our Church. It is an event unique in Orthodoxy and reflects the conciliar nature of our Church.

The goals for the ACC are to encourage a sense of identity within the OCA. Wishes for representatives who can reflect the needs of the parish and who will find ways for the OCA to help the parish and for the parish to help the OCA

Discussion: Changes to Bylaws mandated by the OCA. Will discuss further

Clergy Remarks

Father George: Expressed thanks to President Nobles for her leadership both spiritual and administrative. Thanks to Ivan Andonov's coordination of the iconography project and his work on the stairs project which will be presented later. Recognized Suzanne Tolstoy and Marina Poutiatine who started the Benevolent Fund 20 years ago to provide funding for iconography.

Father Valery: Thanks to Nobles, the Parish Council and all of the committees for their contributions to the life of the Church.

President's Remarks

It has been an honor to serve. Thanks to His Beatitude and the clergy for a conciliar decision making process. Also thanks to the Parish Council and to our Matushkas. We have a beautiful cathedral but the value is in the people.

Introduction of Candidates for Parish Council

Nominating Committee chair Candice Johnson reported that, because she is running unopposed, Nino Burjanadze will likely be elected Parish Council President. Therefore, Nino would be vacating her current seat as Parish Council Member and the Parish will be electing 4 Parish Council Members, with the 2 runners-up becoming Deputy Council Members. Additionally, the Parish will elect 2 lay delegates to the All-American Council, with runners-up becoming an alternate or observer.

Candice Johnson introduced the candidates for Parish Council who were present:

- Elena Forrest
- Mark Naydan
- Walter Alesevich
- Elena Son
- Viktoria Shalaginova
- Zhiksa Pagonosky

Each candidate that was present made a brief statement and Johnson gave remarks for the three candidates that could not attend:

The floor was opened for nominations for All-American Council delegate: two representatives and two alternates.

- Walter Alesevich: nominated by Lisa Mikhalevsky, 2nd: Wayne Paige
- Claire Nobles: Nominated by Elena Forrest, 2nd: Andonov
- Larry Harrison: Nominated by Andonov, 2nd: Alesevich
- Burjanadze: Nominated by Johnson, 2nd: Naydan

Nominations closed: Johnson, 2nd: Naydan

Johnson announced two corrections to the ballot instructions: (1) Voting Members can write up to four candidates for Parish Council Member and (2) Voting Members can write up to two candidates for All-American Council delegate. Nobles closed the polls and directed the ballots to be counted.

Election of Auditors:

President Nobles opened the floor to nominations for three auditors:

- Ivan Andonov: Nominated by Harrison, 2nd by Naydan
- Mark Naydan: Nominated by Nobles, 2nd by Dale Houser
- Suzanne Tolstoy: Nominated by Naydan, 2nd by Katya Haines
- Katya Haines: Nominated by Naydan, 2nd by Harrison

Naydan requested that his nomination be withdrawn.

Nobles moved that the remaining three nominees be elected by acclamation: 2nd: James Slack

Motion approved by voice vote

Vote on Changes to the St. Nicholas Cathedral Bylaws

Elena Forrest, Chairperson of the Legal and Bylaws Committee, made the following motion:

“With the primary purpose of bringing our Parish Bylaws into conformity with the OCA Statute, I move to revise the Parish Bylaws of the Russian Orthodox Church of St. Nicholas, of Washington, District of Columbia, as set forth in the document attached to this Motion to Revise the Parish Bylaws, which document was distributed at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Parish, provided that the Parish Council, in conjunction with the Legal and Bylaws Committee, is authorized to incorporate the changes suggested by the Metropolitan at the February 2018 Annual Meeting and to correct article and section designations, grammar, punctuation, and cross-references and to make such other formatting, technical, and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the Annual Meeting before presentation of the revised Bylaws to the Archdiocesan Authority.”

His Beatitude explained that under the OCA Statutes he would have the final approval of the Bylaws revision in his capacity as Archbishop of the Washington, DC Archdiocese. He proactively had the proposed Bylaws revision reviewed by Judge Ray Lanier, who then recommended additional language regarding holding Parish Property in a trust and reference to the Dean of the Cathedral but, due to the last-minute receipt of this additional language, it was not included in the proposed Bylaws revision that was distributed at check-in. However, adoption of this motion would authorize the Parish Council to incorporate the additional language before presentation of the Bylaws revision to the Archdiocese, thereby avoiding the necessity of calling a special meeting due to non-approval of the proposed revision (as currently written).

Motion 2nd by Harrison

Discussion:

- Changes don't fundamentally change the character of the bylaws
- Changes by Metropolitan
 - Wording on any dissolution of the parish
 - Reinstate the position of Dean of the Cathedral

Houser moved to call the question

On a show of hands, the motion to revise the bylaws was approved with 3 opposed

Metropolitan's Question Time

His Beatitude took questions from members on the following issues:

- North American church unity
- Strategic communications
- Sunday School curriculum

- Outreach to minority groups

Election Results

President Nobles read the following Tellers Report from the Nominating Committee:

For Parish Council Member

Elena Forrest	56 votes
Elena Son	50 votes
Viktorina Shalaginova	39 votes
Walter Alesevich	32 votes
Zhiksa Pagonsky	30 votes
Mark Naydan	24 votes

For All-American Council Delegate

Claire Nobles	34 votes
Walter Alesevich	27 votes
Nino Burjanadze	25 votes
Larry Harrison	24 votes

Elected for Three Years:

- Elena Forrest
- Elena Son
- Viktoria Shalaginova

Elected for Two Years:

- Walter Alesevich

Elected for one year as Deputy Council Members

- Zhiksa Pagonsky
- Mark Naydan

President Nobles declared that Claire Nobles and Walter Alesevich were elected lay delegates to the All-American Council and that Nino Burjanadze and Larry Harrison were elected alternates.

Presentation of Building Repairs and Modifications

Ivan Andonov was recognized to give a progress report on repair efforts to the Cathedral. His initial research showed three potential projects: (1) replacing the stairs with concrete and a granite veneer, (2) a retaining wall for the outer perimeter, and (3) adding an elevator.

Andonov suggested that, while excavation of the stairs is being done, that the restrooms be extended out under the planned stair structure along with a storage area behind the kitchen. The retaining wall, constructed around the front of the church building, would mimic the geometry of the existing outer walls.

In response to a question whether a stair lift could be installed on the existing basement stairs, Andonov stated that the stairwell is too narrow. Early plans did show the installation of an elevator from the ground floor to the choir loft in back of the existing stairwell.

He will work on developing cost estimates using the funds that were allocated at the 2017 Annual Meeting and work with the Parish Council and a committee to develop different proposals that will be voted upon at a future meeting of the Parish.

Installation of Officers

Father George installed the newly elected Parish Council President and Parish Council Members.

Treasurer’s Report and Committee Reports

Treasurer Larry Harrison presented the budget to the Annual Meeting and gave his opinion that the finances of the Parish were satisfactory. There is currently an \$8,000 surplus in spite of having projected a \$60,000 deficit. Details of the parish budget and finances were included in the packet provided to each member at the beginning of the meeting.

The Benevolent Fund reimbursed the church \$113,000 for the iconography project.

Committee Reports were provided to all Voting Members at check-in in their meeting packets.

Adjournment

His Beatitude led the meeting in a closing prayer.

Motion to adjourn: Alesevich, 2nd: J. Slack. Passed on voice vote.

Adjourned at 1500

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Cowgill
Secretary

Approved:

Cathedral President

Priest in Charge

Date