

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**St. Nicholas Parish Council**  
**17 November, 2011**

Present: Fr. V. Shemchuk, B. Rhenish, J. Kalvesmaki, I. Burgener, S. Tolstoy, C. Vangellow, W. Alesevich, I. Panyutin, M. Poutiatine, J. Stepanchuk  
Absent: Met. Jonah, S. Moser, P. Vlasov, W. Corcoran, T. Keefer,  
Guests: Fr. Denis Bradley, M. Swezey, M. Pietrzykoski, K. Miller, A. Alaoglu, C. Nobles, M. Smith

**Opening Prayer** – 7:30pm

W. Alesevich moved to accept the Agenda and it was unanimously approved.

October Minutes – corrections were made and Minutes were approved unanimously.

**Pastor's Report** - Fr. Valery Shemchuk congratulated newly elected Council members and thanked them for coming. Fr. Valery reported on his experience at the All American Council. He was impressed by the numbers of priests and bishops who attended and the fact that all took Communion on a daily basis. Despite the crisis in the church, he was impressed by the amount of "experienced, educated and powerful talent" present. Fr. Valery was approached by the clergy who had come to St. Nicholas with the Sitka icon to recall and thank for the hospitality that had been extended to them. Even a former seminarian, who now serves on Kodiak Island, and who was supported financially by St. Nicholas approached him. He invited and welcomes all to come visit.

**Fall Festival** – According to Michele Smith the final figures have yet to be determined but everything points to a net profit above \$28,000.

**New Dean Search** – B. Rhenish reported that Fr. Perich has withdrawn his candidacy as Dean of St. Nicholas. Metropolitan Jonah has other ideas which will be forthcoming in the new year.

**Tenants in the Rectory** - Fr. Valery reported on his meeting with Mr. Coons who said that the damage to his house was greater than anticipated. As a result, he requested an extension of 2 – 4 months of sanctuary in the Rectory. He was very thankful for our generosity and will continue to make donations as he can.

There was a discussion about the donation from the Coons family. It was decided that we are giving sanctuary as an act of christian charity to the Coons family, the Rectory is not functioning as a rental property. It was suggested that for any repairs necessary to the Rectory, they find their own workmen and submit bills to the Cathedral.

**Clothing Drive and Soup Kitchen** – I. Burgener reported that 8 neighboring churches are involved in this project. St. Luke's offered use of their professional kitchen for church events. National Presbyterian is donating all paper goods for the Soup Kitchen. Items of clothing are being collected through November. Sorting will be done on December 2 and the "store" will be open on December 3. Our neighbors at Christ Church will not be a hypothermal center this winter as DC cut funding for transportation.

**Welcome to new Council members** – B. Rhenish stated the swearing in ceremony for new members will be Sunday, Jan. 15, prior to the next Parish Council meeting on Jan. 19. There will be a pot luck dinner on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Process to Implement Annual Meeting Posting Decisions**- The Minutes will be one month behind as the Council needs to approve them. After acceptance, the Treasurer's Report will go to Tatjana D'Arcangelo for posting on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. C. Vangellow raised the question whether electronic approval of Minutes couldn't help shorten meetings. It was decided that both the confusion and the burden on Tatjana would be exponential and the subject was dropped. The question arose about finding Minutes and information for the auditors. In September, the Council agreed that finding the Treasurer's report and Council Minutes would be the responsibility of the church's Office Manager. J. Kalvesmaki brought up the question of what

we need to do to come into compliance with DC rules. He offered to send a soft copy of the October 2010 draft of the Standing Rules (currently on hold in the Legal and Bylaws Committee) that detailed most standing resolutions passed in the previous eight years. A general discussion took place about our need for a web master to post Minutes on line in a protected fashion. It was requested that the Annual Meeting Minutes be put out sooner rather than later, preferably before the end of the year. An idea was floated that a synopsis of Parish Council meeting decisions be posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

**Christmas Bazaar** – On December 18, there will be a combined liturgy followed by a luncheon, art sale, and bake sale. I. Panyutin reported that she and M. Smith are organizing this. International holiday baskets will be offered for sale as well. The art sale will take place on Saturday, December 17 as well. A flier will go to neighbors.

**Treasurer's Report** – J. Stepanchuk established the Reserve Fund account at BB&T. He now needs 3 signatories. He reported that there is a year on year surplus for this reporting period. Gift Corner motion: W. Alesevich moved on behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee. See attached.

The suggestion was made to encourage people to leave money to St. Nicholas in their wills. One idea as to how to accomplish this was to post something on the website; another was to send an annual letter to parishioners. It was mentioned that donations do not have to occur only at death, but could also be to celebrate special events in people's lives. Discussion was tabled.

**Facilities Report** – C. Vangellow reported that roof repairs should have been completed by November 14. She reiterated the need to have a few people trained to deal with the thermostat in the cathedral. Igor Panyutin, Fr. Valery, W. Alesevich and M. Pietrzykoski will be trained. Fr. Denis requested that people learn how to use the sound system to better effect and add new microphones, perhaps even a small mic system.

Windows in the main dome are leaking. There is seepage.

The limestone on the bell tower needs repair.

The question arose as to whether St. Nicholas has enough insurance vis a vis vestments, icons and other church artifacts.

C. Vangellow asked if we have anybody in the wings to succeed Sasha Yousak when he retires. The check from Guide One for \$6,491.54 came in. B. Rhenish asked for clarification on whether or not this was sufficient as the estimate was \$7,909.06 before she signed it. It was correct as it was minus the \$1,500 deductible and depreciation. This check was for the overflow condensate pan damage to the roof.

**Stewardship** – M. Poutiatine reported on the census. Last year we reported 292 assessable members. We have 316 names on the books this year. This includes people who are members, and non members who contribute money. At this point, we are estimating 245 could be included in the census for 2012. People are still confused as to what it means to be a member. To vote, you need to pay dues and pledge, but we must find a way to simplify definitions and rules. The census report due to the Council by December 31 of this year, may not be finished in time. A survey is being developed to collect information from parishioners that would be helpful to the Council in developing ways to suggest how they can be active in parish life. It would also be a way of taking the parish's "pulse" on a variety of issues.

Fr. Valery ended the meeting with a recommendation that we all watch EWTN, the Catholic channel that has premiered a series called Catholicism. It is a new program on Christianity around the world, with a new episode every week.

There will be a liturgy at 9 AM on Thanksgiving Day.

**Motion to Adjourn** - Walter A. offered a motion. M Poutiatine seconded. Unanimous approval was given at 10:10pm.

Closing Prayer

Next meeting: December 15, 2011

Recorded by Suzanne Tolstoy

Gift Corner Motion:

"(1) To avoid the co-mingling of funds, match revenues with the related costs, and provide transparency and accountability for the Gift Corner Fund operations, I move that

(A) the St. Nicholas Cathedral Gift Corner Sales and Gift Corner - Annex Sales generated during or related to the 2011 Fall Festival be transferred from the Cathedral's Operating Fund BB&T Operating Bank Account to the Gift Corner Fund BB&T Gift Corner Checking Account; and

(B) the St. Nicholas Cathedral Gift Corner Sales and Gift Corner -Annex Costs related to the sales proceeds generated by St. Nicholas Cathedral Gift Corner and Gift Corner - Annex during or related to the 2011 Fall Festival not already charged to or paid by the Gift Corner be transferred from the Gift Corner Fund BB&T Gift Corner Checking Account to the Cathedral's Operating Fund BB&T Operating Bank Account.

(C) For all future fund raising events, any future Gift Corner sales generated during or related to such future fund raising events shall be deposited into the Gift Corner Fund bank accounts and recorded as Gift Corner sales.

(D) For all future fund raising events, any future Gift Corner costs generated during or related to such future fund raising events shall be disbursed from the Gift Corner Fund bank accounts and recorded as Gift Corner costs.

Background -- In 2011, separate Gift Corner Fund bank accounts were created to track the Gift Corner financial activity. If there is to be transparency and accountability over the Gift Corner financial activity, ALL Gift Corner receipts and disbursements must be processed through the Gift Corner bank accounts. Any deviation from this practice distorts the Gift Corner financial activity reports and profit determination.

The Cathedral's past practice of including the Gift Corner and Gift Corner -Annex profits in the Fall Festival activity and depositing the Gift Corner and Gift Corner - Annex Fall Festival net profit in the Operating Fund deprives the Gift Corner Fund of its most productive days' profits. The reported proceeds from the Fall Festival would remain the same. However, the proceeds from the Gift Corner sales would not be deposited into the Cathedral's Operating Fund.

Prior to 2011, the Gift Corner contributed its Fall Festival (Bazaar) gross sales profits to the Cathedral Operating Fund to pay its share of the Operating Fund's annual facilities expenses. Effective 2011, the Gift Corner pays a rental charge to cover its share of the Operating Fund's annual facilities expenses.

Requiring the Gift Corner to pay both a rental charge AND contribute its Fall Festival profits to the Operating Fund creates too great of a financial burden upon the Gift Corner operations."