



HOLY WISDOM ORTHODOX MISSION

A mission parish of the Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the West

Holy Wisdom Mission

Minutes of the Special Parish Meeting, 6 March 2021, at our Church

Parish Members Present: Anastasia Bowman, Crystal Brittain, Katherine Bryann, Mary Kay Clark, Dr. George and Janet Gatseos, Michael and Dawn George, Dr. Jenny Kennedy, Karen Kopanos, Monica Kostron, Janine and Lee Kreidler, Sherry Logsdon, Bob Magos, Peggy Moncrief, Margaret Moore

Opening Prayer, Fr. Benjamin (approximately 11:30 am)

Announcement: Fr. Benjamin explained that, this morning at 9:00 am, our parishioner Jerre Witt underwent cardiac catheterization. If significant blockage was found, bypass surgery was anticipated. We have been in contact with Jerre, and we keep him in our prayers.

Determination of a Quorum: Fr. Benjamin explained that the required quorum is 25% of voting members. With our present membership 8 members constitutes a quorum. The quorum requirement is met today.

Statement of Purpose of Meeting:

Fr. Benjamin stated that today's meeting is occurring so that we can vote on approval of Mission Parish By-Laws, on approval of a 2021 Budget, and to elect Parish Council Members as well as a Representative to the Diocesan Assembly.

He described life in the Church as providing us with knowledge that remains over decades, because our whole being knows it. He explained that we come to Church to learn how to be what God created us to be. We do not learn this in our heads or by reading a book. We learn this by doing it, year after year. Sharing a brief vignette, he explained that, in some ways, it is not unlike learning to play baseball—a set of skills learned through experience and practice, over one's life-time, not in the mind, but with our whole being. In coming to Church, being part of our Church community we are learning to be truly human, how to love God, to love one another. As Father Alexander Schmemmann said, we are learning how to be worshipful beings. Being in a community, a Church, our main goal is to worship with one another. Our opinions may vary, our race and our physical abilities are all diverse, but we come together as a worshipping community. Today's work allows us to be this community. The budget is important in that having it allows us to come together, so that we can learn how to love one another what is essential for our life, for our salvation. We do practical things so that our mission can be fulfilled, so that we can be a light—how to be filled in a very dry and thirsty world. The parish community is a deep well.

Fr. Benjamin reminded us that the Apostle Paul admonished us: "Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being" (Corinthians). This is a rule to live by: not to put one's self first, but to put one another before our selves. Today we move forward in turning our hearts to Christ. This is the will of God—to offer our heart, mind, and words to God, so that

what comes out of this meeting is to His glory, to his will, to work with God. May we do so with the disposition of loving God and one another, with His discernment. Amen.

Vote on Approval of Mission Parish By-Laws:

Fr. Benjamin reminded us that the By-Laws were distributed several weeks ago, and that a correction had more recently been distributed, clarifying that the Assembly was voting on positions for the Council. Fr. Benjamin asked if there were any questions about this correction. No questions were raised regarding this correction.

Anastasia Bowman asked: Can the By-Laws be amended? She said she is concerned about the one year terms of office-the turnover seems short. Fr. Benjamin replied that, given the newness of the Church, the one year terms allow flexibility. He said that it is possible to change term length.

Motion to Approve the By-Laws was made by Lee Kreidler and seconded by Michael George. Upon voting, all present were in favor; none were opposed. Vote on Approval of a 2021 Budget: Janine Kreidler, our treasurer, presented the Budget she has developed with Father Benjamin, and with Parish Council. She explained that she had included actual figures for May through December of 2020, January and February of 2021, and included projections for the remainder of 2021. She explained that sources of income are limited to candles and stewardship. She asked if there are questions regarding the budget.

Dr. George Gatseos said he had a question related to cash flow, and requested clarification of the rent expensed for January 2021. Janine explained that January rent-related expenses included a security deposit, the first and last month's rent and utilities for those months, as well as NNN ("triple-net") costs. Fr. Benjamin explained that January costs were determined as percentages rather than costs for a full month, that they were pro-rated, so they are not clean numbers. Janine explained that, also during January, we paid rent to Crossroads Church and paid rent on our current building for the upcoming month (February). The future monthly rent will be \$1,530.

Margaret Moore asked about obtaining a bank account as a Mission. Fr. Benjamin replied that having By-Laws and a Council allows incorporation as a non-profit entity. Once the process of incorporation is accomplished, we will be able to obtain an EIN # and a bank account. Until that occurs, members wishing to make donations should write checks to St. Andrews, designating that the funds are for Holy Wisdom Mission.

Margaret asked about the distinction between working money and the building fund. Janine explained that the Building Fund balance is currently zero. A parishioner commented that we should take a certain amount of money from our account and place it in the building fund. There was a conversation about this amongst the parishioners. It was ultimately decided to table this issue so that the meeting could focus on the agenda. The elected parish council will discuss it further and bring the issue back to the parishioners.

A parishioner asked about current clergy compensation. Janine, the treasurer, explained that this was determined in communication with Fr. Matthew, our dean. there was further

dialogue about preparing for a future priest and what the mission can do to be able to prepare for that to happen.

Since no further questions were raised regarding the Budget, Fr. Benjamin asked if there was a Motion to pass the Budget. Crystal made a Motion that we pass the Budget for 2021. The Motion was seconded by Janet Gatseos. A vote was taken: all were in favor, none opposed.

Elect five Parish Council Members:

Fr. Benjamin thanked the members of the Temporary Parish Council for their service, stating that they had done a wonderful job. He said that, moving forward, we need to elect new members: a Vice President, a Treasurer, a Secretary and two At-Large Members.

For Vice President: Fr. Benjamin said that the only nomination at present is for Dr. George Gatseos. He asked if there are other nominations. None were made. Margaret made a motion that Dr. George be approved as President. The Motion was seconded by Lee. A vote was taken: all were in favor, none opposed.

For Secretary: Fr. Benjamin said the only current nomination is Anastasia Bowman. He asked if there are other nominations. None were made. Karen made a Motion that Anastasia be approved as Secretary. Sherry Logsdon seconded the Motion. A vote was taken: all were in favor, none opposed.

For Treasurer: Fr. Benjamin reported that the only current nomination is for Monica Kostron. He asked if there were other nominations. None were made. A Motion was made for approval of Monica serving as Treasurer. A vote was taken: all were in favor, none opposed.

Members At-Large: Fr. Benjamin said that there are three nominations for the two positions of Member At-Large: Karen Kopanos, Sherry Logsdon, and Mike George. He asked if there are other nominations. Mary Kay Clark asked if it is possible for all three to serve. Fr. Benjamin replied No, that the By-Laws, which we are required to follow, indicate that there are two positions. Paper ballots were distributed, and a vote was taken to select the two Members-At Large. Jenny Kennedy an one other parishioner counted the ballots. Jenny subsequently announced that vote indicated that the Council's At-Large Members will be Karen Kopanos and Mike George.

Election of a Parish Representative to the Diocesan Assembly:

While the votes were being counted, Fr. Benjamin continued to speak to parishioners, describing the Assembly and explaining the Representative's role In the meeting that is anticipated to occur in Las Vegas, October 12-14, 2021.

Following Jenny's announcement of the At-Large Members, Lee Kreidler was nominated as the Representative; Peggy Moncrief seconded the nomination. Lee tentatively accepted the nomination, explaining that October is his busiest time.

A parishioner asked if clergy could be nominated as our Representative. Fr. Benjamin said that Clergy go automatically. A vote was taken on the Motion for Lee's election: all were in favor, none opposed.

It was clarified that it is acceptable to elect an alternate, to represent the Parish at the meeting if Lee is unable to attend. Dr. George nominated Sherry Logsdon as the Alternate. Sherry accepted the nomination and it was seconded by Karen. A vote was taken and Sherry was approved as the Alternate.

A parishioner asked Dr. George if he would like to be an Alternate. He declined.

Adjournment:

Fr. Benjamin said that we had addressed all of the items on the Agenda. He asked that the new Council members remain for a moment after the meeting, for a brief conference with him to determine the meeting time for the Council Meeting.

Fr. Benjamin stated that this is a gift from God, and gave Thanks to God for all of His blessings.

Closing Prayer, Fr. Benjamin.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by:


Katherine (Jenny) Kennedy, Secretary

17 March 2021
Date


Priest Benjamin Huggins – Rector

17 March 2021
Date