



Holy Myrrhbearers

ORTHODOX MISSION

Annual Parish Assembly Sunday 30 January 2022

1. Opening prayer

The meeting was opened with prayer.

2. Adoption of agenda

Fr Geoffrey Ready presented the meeting agenda.

Motion to accept the agenda: Louise Neville

Seconded by: Roshan Carpenter

The agenda was passed.

3. Approval of minutes

The minutes from the previous Parish Assembly on 31 January 2021 were presented, with no calls for amendments or changes.

Motion to accept the minutes: Joseph Clarke

Seconded by: Milena Djokic

The minutes were accepted.

4. Rector's report (review of 2021 and looking ahead to 2022)

Fr Geoffrey gave a report on the growth and development of the mission in its fifth full year, focusing on the six ministry areas: worship, hospitality, teaching, service, stewardship, and administration. He gave a brief overview of the changes we've had to make because of the pandemic, and a reflection on how that has worked out.

- Highlights of **worship** ministry include:
 - We've kept services going, one way or another; we are grateful for the hospitality of Christ the Saviour Cathedral as well as Nativity of

the Mother of God Ukrainian Church where we held outdoor services.

- Highlights of **hospitality** ministry include:
 - This one has taken the greatest hit during the pandemic because of health restrictions, but we've managed some things like get together and walks outside of church. We have continued to meet for fellowship and mutual support despite the obstacles.
- Highlights of **teaching** ministry include:
 - This continues to be a core of our mission, perhaps more than most parishes. We have continued to provide a lot of instruction, and teaching, and exposure to the Orthodox church/life. We've continued to teach online, and when we can in person, and it continues to grow.
 - Fr Geoffrey is hoping to have more children to teach in the next year, but that will be only in person, not online.
- Highlights of **service** ministry include:
 - Includes such things as St Hermione's (even though launching a visiting mission during a pandemic is tricky!). Though it is meant to be primarily a lay person mission, Fr Geoffrey has done much of the visiting himself, including to long-term care homes. Father is hoping that as restrictions lift, we can have a more regular group of volunteers to conduct visits, and alleviate the isolation caused by COVID restrictions.
 - We have also worked closely with Yonge Street Mission, and want that to continue; the YSM's "Coldest Night of the Year" fundraiser is happening in a few weeks' time.
 - The burial society is something we still hope to do after the pandemic has eased.
- Highlights of **stewardship** ministry include:
 - We need to make sure all of our wonderful ideas are funded, financially, but supported with people's time and talents.
 - We need to give some more thought/time to how to allocate the various resources to these projects.
- Highlights of **administration** ministry include:
 - Thanks was given to parish council for their continued work.
- Additional item: we need to have good leadership across each of these six areas as we get ramped up again. Roshan will spearhead this as our small group coordinator.

- People should feel free to give their ideas for ways to serve and grow, and we want to equip them with resources to get these ideas off the ground.

5. Financial Report for 2021

Treasurer Alexandra Cumby presented the financial statements for 2021 (attached). Some of the key points were:

- We just broke even in 2021.
- In the first month of 2021 people largely donated as before, then there was a drop off.
- We continue to rely on a small group of big donors, which leaves us at risk if someone were to leave.
- We hope to have pre-pandemic levels of donations this year.

6. Budget for 2022

Treasurer Alexandra Cumby presented the budget for 2022 (attached). Some of the key points were:

- Not as many liturgical expenses anticipated this year.
- We will move closer to compensating rector and choir director in an amount closer to archdiocesan guidelines (right now we're at 85%).
- Rent will hopefully be going back up – when we return to Trinity College.
- Our budget for 2022 is just under \$140,000.00
- Motion to adopt the financial reports and budget: Milena Djokic
- Seconded by: Misha Drobac
- The financial reports and budget were adopted.

7. Election of parish council

Fr Geoffrey presented the following slate of officers for election:

- Warden: Joseph Clarke
- Second Warden: Milena Djokic
- Treasurer: Alexandra Cumby
- Secretary: Irene Cassar
- St Hermione's Coordinator: Louise Neville
- Small Groups Coordinator: Roshan Carpenter

Motion to elect the parish council: Peter Drobac

Seconded by: Misha Drobac
Passed and parish council elected.

8. Election of auditing committee

Father Geoffrey nominated Shaun Cumby and Ioanna Karounos for the committee to scrutinise the financial systems and annual preparation of financial reports.

Motion to elect the auditing committee: Roshan Carpenter

Seconded by: Joseph Clarke

Passed and auditing committee elected.

9. Plan to Protect

- Father gave a brief explanation as to what the “Plan to Protect” set of policies is, and why it’s necessary.
- We worked with St. Maria of Paris in Hamilton to support each other incorporating these policies into our parishes.
- Father acknowledged Secretary Irene Cassar’s adaptation of the template policies to “localize” them to our parish.

Motion to adopt the Plan to Protect policies: Joseph Clarke

Seconded by: Roshan Carpenter

Motion carried and policies adopted.

10. Other business

- Looking toward Lent and hoping to have a Pan-Orthodox Vespers for the Sunday of Orthodoxy for the first time since 2019.
- The closeness of our parishes in Toronto have declined, partially due to the Moscow-Constantinople split, and now Moscow is moving into African territory.
- But we might do smaller collaborations instead of the very large multi-parish events of years passed, though nothing has been planned yet.
- Summertime – before all-American council Father John Behr will be here and visiting, probably Sunday July 17.
- The OCA Archdiocesan Assembly (which is usual tri-annual, but was postponed in both 2020 and 2021), will take place in Baltimore this July.
- Father Geoffrey is unable to go and asked our “dispensation” that he not attend, but Misha Drobac will be attending as a lay delegate with the consensus of the parish.

11. Closing prayer

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Fr Geoffrey asked for motion to dismiss.

Motion: Milena Djokic

Seconded by: Louise Neville

Motion passed and meeting adjourned.