



Holy Myrrhbearers

ORTHODOX MISSION

Annual Parish Assembly Sunday 29 January 2023

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: Irene Cassar

Seconded by: Roshan Carpenter

The agenda was passed.

3. Approval of minutes

The minutes from the previous Parish Assembly on 30 January 2022 were presented, with no calls for amendments or changes.

Motion to accept the minutes: Irene Cassar

Seconded by: Milena Djokic

The minutes were accepted.

4. Rector's report (review of 2022 and looking ahead to 2023)

Fr Geoffrey gave a report on the growth and development of the mission in its sixth full year, focusing on the six ministry areas: worship, hospitality, teaching, service, stewardship, and administration.

- Highlights of **worship** ministry include:
 - Keeping together through a difficult few years in "exile"
 - We should be prepared for another seismic disruption to our ordinary operations – maybe we weren't as ready as we thought

- Highlights of **hospitality** ministry include:
 - Took the biggest hit during the pandemic, but we're back to fellowship teams, and enjoying fellowship together again
 - Plus fun spontaneous things, etc.
 - Reminded us of the social calendar on the parish website

- Highlights of **teaching** ministry include:
 - Continues to be at the core of the parish purpose/mission
 - Both in the university and outside of it
 - Groups studies online and in person, courses (open to parish members), podcasts, etc.

- Highlights of **service** ministry include:
 - Also took a hit during pandemic, but we've revamped it in 2022
 - St. Hermione's in particular, we raised \$15,000.00 for Ukrainian refugees over the last year (and it has almost all been spent, very well)
 - Trying to prevent people being left isolated is the core mission of the layperson ministry
 - To do a burial Orthodox burial society requires people dying at home, which is rare in the diaspora, so that ministry has yet to get started

- Highlights of **stewardship** ministry include:
 - Alexandra will cover a bit more in financial reports
 - We need more active donation campaign

- Highlights of **administration** ministry include:
 - Primarily the parish council, but also choir, altar service, fellowship teams etc.
 - We need to diversify our leaders, to keep growing – most groups don't grow organically past about 60 people
 - Father would like to have a team of core leaders who act as delegates
 - Our weekly newsletter goes out to about 300 email recipients (perhaps 450 people) but only a fraction show up, so he asked us to give thoughts on how to grow, taking on lay leadership roles

5. Financial Report for 2022

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

- 17% higher in 2022 than 2021
- Market has been volatile, our investments are a bit down, it's a bumpy period
- We have not been charged rent since returning (Father keeps asking!)
- We will keep planning for it, though
- Unbudgeted expenses in travel were for the All-American Council (sending Misha as the delegate)
- Greater liturgical expenses than anticipated, balanced out with no rent

6. Budget for 2022

Treasurer Alexandra Cumby presented the budget for 2023 (attached). Some of the key points were:

- Largely the same as for 2022
 - Bump in compensation for Fr Geoffrey and Peter
 - Same budgeted for rent, operational, liturgical, fellowship, choir expenses etc.
- Motion to adopt the financial reports and budget: Milena Djokic
 - Seconded by: Ioanna (Linda) Karounos
 - 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: Kelly Crawford
Seconded by: Boris Ianovski
Passed and parish council elected.

8. Election of auditing committee

Father Geoffrey nominated Sharon Helleman and Ioanna (Linda) Karounos for the committee to scrutinise the financial systems and annual preparation of financial reports.

Motion to elect the auditing committee: Irene Cassar
Seconded by: Joseph Clarke
Passed and auditing committee elected.

9. Election of lay delegate to the Archdiocesan Assembly

Father Geoffrey nominated Irene Cassar.

Motion to elect delegate: Milena Djokic

Seconded by: Kelly Crawford

Passed.

Father Geoffrey noted that the assembly being in Montreal meant that others from the parish may wish to attend.

10. Plan to Protect

These important provisions remain in force and we are in compliance.

11. Other business

Pan-Orthodox Vespers this year will be at St George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Richmond Hill on Sunday 5 March.

12. Closing prayer

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Fr Geoffrey asked for motion to dismiss.

Motion: Joseph Clarke

Seconded by: Milena Djokic

Meeting adjourned.