

Meeting Minutes

Christian Orthodox Council of Akron

Date: Monday, October 16, 2023

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Location: St. Elia the Prophet Orthodox Church

I. Call to Order

President Judge Kathryn Michael called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Six churches were represented. The following council members were present:

- St George Akron – Judge Kathryn Michael
- St George Akron – Bob Snyder
- St Elia – Fr Don Freude
- St Elia – Joshua Wherley
- St Elia – Mary Marcin
- St Nicholas – Basil Kochan
- Annunciation – Dr. John Bober
- Annunciation Fr Nick Manuel
- St Thomas – Stephanie Marszal
- Presentation – Debbie Morgan
- Presentation – Maria Waterhouse
- **Secretary COCA – Ginger DeFilippo**
- OCW V.P. – Sandy Graham

III. Opening Prayer

Father Freude led the opening prayer.

IV. Welcome

Judge Kathy Michael extended a warm welcome to all attendees.

VI. Reports

- **President's Report:** N/A
- **Vice President's Report:** N/A
- **Secretary's Report:** Ginger DeFilippo presented the minutes report. Subsequently, Bob Snyder motioned to approve the meeting minutes, with Mary Marcin seconding the motion. The minutes were successfully approved.
- **Treasurer's Report:**
Lou, though not physically present, reported a balance of \$10,169.94 via email. No motion was required.

VII. Parish Events/Activities

Annunciation:

- Organized a successful Mission Walk, raising funds for three local charities.
- Scheduled a "Battle of the Chefs" fundraising dinner for November 11, 2023.
- Father Dean hosts "Journey to Fullness" catechism program.
- Seeking volunteers for food pantry and monthly hot meal events.

St Elia:

- Hosted a successful "Quarter Auction" fundraising event.
- Attended a diocesan conference in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.
- New mission parish, Saint Elizabeth the New Martyr, established.
- Supporting OCA Diocese of Alaska and Kodiak Seminary initiatives.
- Thanksgiving prayer service scheduled.
- New family expected to be received into the church within the next couple of months.

St George:

- Hosting a building fund raffle on November 3, 2023.
- Adding new icons to the iconostasis and ceiling.
- Youth and Young adult meeting on Wednesday night.
- Annual auction and dinner fundraiser on November 10, 2023, to support Project St. Nicholas.

St Nicholas:

- Father Nick's Holy Land trip canceled, currently on vacation.
- Organizing a special stocking project for seminarians.
- Basil Kochan elected to Metropolitan Council.
- Hosting the Diocesan Assembly in Akron next year.
- Fall Family Festival, drive-thru dinners, men's group events, and Cookie Walk announced.

Presentation:

- Pumpkin roll sales and Cookie Walk scheduled for November and December.
- Fall banquet on November 12, 2023.

St Thomas:

- Successful community dinner.
- Restarting Vesper services and Memorial Saturday liturgy.

VIII. Akron Summit County Clergy Association

- Metropolitan Savas to speak on March 24, 2024, at Annunciation.

IX. OCW and Young Adults

N/A

X. OCW

- Mini retreat on January 20, 2024.
- Had their Welcome Tea celebrating their 50th Anniversary
- Lenten retreat on April 20, 2023, with Fr. Barnabas Powell.
- They are hosting two book studies. One in person. One on-line.

XI. New Business

- Dr. John Bober moved to use the website company Orthodox Web Solutions be used for COCA website development, expenses not to exceed \$750.00 in the first year along with monthly maintenance, then switching to self-maintained. Basil Kochan seconded. Q and A followed. Motion passed.
- Discussion on COCA recognition as a non-profit.

XII. Old Business

- Ken Liu's presentation scheduled for December 9, 2023.
- Next meeting rescheduled for November 13, 2023, at Presentation of our Lord.

XIII. Announcements and Guests

- Bob Snyder announced St. George has a new refugee family
- President Judge Kathy asked about proposed expenditures. Money will be going to Ken Liu, but it is tbd.

XIV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by President Judge Kathy Michael.

XV. Closing Prayer

Father Freude led the closing prayer.

XVI. Next Meeting

November 13, 2023, at 6:30 PM at Presentation of our Lord.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Ginger DeFilippo