

Meeting Minutes

Christian Orthodox Council of Akron

Date: Monday, November 13, 2023

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Location: The Presentation of Our Lord Orthodox Church

I. Call to Order

President Judge Kathryn Michael called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Five parishes were represented. The following council members were present:

- St George Akron – Kathryn Michael (President)
- St George Akron – Robert Snyder
- St Elia – Fr Don Freude
- St Elia – Joshua Wherley (Vice President)
- St Elia – Mary Marcin
- St Thomas - Stephanie Marszal
- Annunciation – Fr Nick Manuel
- Annunciation – John Bober
- Presentation – Fr Ian Pac-Urar
- Presentation – Debbie Morgan
- Presentation – Maria Waterhouse

III. Opening Prayer

Fr Ian Pac-Urar led the opening prayer.

IV. Welcome

Pres. Kathryn Michael extended a warm welcome to all attendees.

VI. Reports

- **President's Report:** N/A
- **Vice President's Report:** N/A
- **Secretary's Report:** Joshua Wherley presented the minutes report. Robert Snyder motioned to approve the meeting minutes as corrected, with John Bober seconding the motion. The corrected minutes were successfully approved.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Lou (not physically present) reported via email that the bank balance as of 11/10/2023 is \$10,166.94. No motion was required.
 - Based on the motion at the September meeting, \$300 is to be donated to AoB Orthodox Youth Ministries and Ken Liu is to be reimbursed up to \$700 for travel expenses upon his request.

VII. Parish Events/Activities

Annunciation:

- Philoptochos fundraiser "Men Who Cook" Nov. 11, 2023 to benefit veterans organizations was successful.
- The Mission Walk raised \$6,000.00 for three local charities (Shelter Care, Hope Farm, and Interval Brotherhood Home).
- Fr Dean hosts the "Journey to Fullness" study program, preceded by a *paraklesis*. The program is an overview of the Orthodox faith and all are welcome to attend.
- A young adult Friendsgiving is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023, beginning with Vespers at 4:30 PM and potluck at 5:30 PM.

St Elia:

- A fundraiser supporting OCA Diocese of Alaska/St Herman Seminary (Kodiak) is in process throughout the month of November
 - \$380 has been raised so far.
 - Stephanie motioned for COCA to donate \$500.00, Mary Marcin seconded. Motion carried.
- Matushka Olga was officially glorified as a saint by the Holy Synod of the OCA, her feast day is November 10.
- *Paraklesis* for the Nativity season scheduled for Wednesday 11/15/2023 at 6:00 PM.
- Thanksgiving prayer service scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023.
- New family is expected to be received into the church within the next couple of months.

St George:

- Gaza relief collection taken through the month of November, distributed through the Antiochian Patriarchate.
- A coat drive during the Nativity fast season is in process.
- Young adult meeting scheduled for Wednesday night, Nov. 22, 2023.
- Annual auction and dinner fundraiser on Nov. 10, 2023 to support Project St. Nicholas was successful.

Presentation:

- The "Journey to Fullness" program is scheduled to begin Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023 (going from 6:30-8:00 PM) and running into early 2024.
- A Christmas concert & community meal featuring Stan Hywet's Goodyear Concert Band is scheduled for Dec. 4, 2023 at 6:30 PM. Free will offerings will be accepted.
- A Cookie Walk after Liturgy is scheduled for Dec. 10, 2023.
- The documentary *Undivide Us* is tentatively planned for screening Jan. 18, 2024.

St Thomas:

- No updates as of this time.

VIII. Akron Summit County Clergy Association

- Nov. 14, 2023 at 11:00 AM at Waterloo Restaurant.
- Joint Divine Liturgy more than likely not happening in the near future due to logistical issues.

IX. OCF and Young Adults

N/A

X. OCW

- “Question the Clergy” mini-retreat on Jan. 20, 2024 from 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM.
 - Participating clergy are to be determined; Fr Nick Manuel and Fr Don Freude are confirmed.
- Lenten retreat at St. Nicholas in Mogadore on April 20, 2023, w/ Fr Barnabas Powell.
- OCW is hosting two book studies, one in person & one on-line.

XI. Old Business

- Orthodox Web Solutions’s website development is still in the works. Nothing to report on as of now. Fr. Ian agreed to transfer the existing domain to John Bober and will work on it this week.
- 3ETREAT scheduled for Dec. 9, 2023 from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM at St Nicholas in Mogadore. For further information see <https://www.theoym.org/akron>
- No movement regarding COCA recognition as a non-profit. Judge Kathy will work on this.

XII. New Business

- Mary Marcin motioned COCA to send holiday checks for the same people/organizations as has been done in prior years, seconded by Debbie Morgan. Motion carried.
- Fr Don Freude mentioned that COCA used to sponsor a charity dinner, which was replaced by an IOCC dinner, but both have since stopped. This was mentioned as a general comment that COCA is not as active in hosting their own events like past years.
 - Fr Nick Manuel encouraged attendees to consider what sort of fundraiser/effort COCA can lead on a yearly basis. The discussion involved whether it should be primarily fundraising for charities or social.

XII. New Business, continued

- Mary Marcin mentioned that due to the ongoing violence in Palestine/Israel it would be worthwhile for the Orthodox community of Akron to have a prayer service (online or in person), share prayers online, light candles, or something along those lines.

XIV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by President Kathryn Michael.

XV. Closing Prayer

Fr Nick Manuel led the closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 07:38 PM.

XVI. Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 18, 2023 at 6:30 PM, hosted by St George parish.

Respectfully Submitted by:

VP Joshua Wherley