

**Church of the Resurrection  
Finance Council Meeting  
Wednesday, June 8, 2016**

In attendance: Fr. Tom Dragga, Nick Babic, Dennis Bodziony, Dave Consolo, Bob Eidnier, Marilyn Emshoff, Alex Hamm, William Hawke, Dan Plato, Paul Sabataitis, John Shovary, Herb Wilson, Kevin Young, Janice Zeller

Absent: Ann O'Brien, Bob Sorin

- 1) The meeting opened at 7 PM with an opening prayer by Fr. Tom.
- 2) We reviewed the progress report. Our operating loss is minimal now, but may end up about the same as last year at the worst, i.e. approximately \$30,000. The lack of a full-time music director for several months resulted in salary savings, our snow plowing expenses have been less and we have a new plan for plowing for successive years.
- 3) The restricted fund currently consists of over \$300,000. The increase in the capital repair and improvement fund is about the same as the decrease in operating funds. Dan questioned how we should invest these funds – short term or long term bonds, for example. This then led to a statement that the diocese recommends an investment policy which insures socially responsible investments, and limits the investment brokers we can deal with. Fr. Tom suggested we check with other parishes to learn their policies.
- 4) We will have a potential of about \$145,000 additional receipts from the diocese from Rooted in Faith contributions. We have already met our commitments to those to whom we promised a donation based upon the original plan.
- 5) Dennis suggested that even though we are operating at a deficit we owe it to our staff to pay them fair salaries. We reviewed the effect of 2% and 3% raises for each person. Nick made a motion for a 3% percent increase by Council, seconded by Kevin and the motion passed. Last year a 1% increase had been given to the staff in early 2016.
- 6) About two months ago Sean Nugent, Director of Property Services, for the diocese inspected Resurrection's buildings and property. We can expect his report in a few months. His office can recommend maintenance cycles. This was discussed at a recent Buildings and Grounds commission meeting.
- 7) For the past several meetings we have discussed the Grateful Giving program which is administered by a third-party company and sponsored by the diocese. Fr. Tom reported on the results of Grateful Giving at his former parish, St. Luke's, where the immediate increase in giving totaled 24%, but gradually subsided to a 10% overall increase. We then polled each member of Finance Council as to their opinions on Grateful Giving. Nick suggested that we make this appeal internally and not involve Grateful Giving. Dave informed us that we may have a future capital expense need of \$500,000 to \$3,000,000. Herb reflected on Fr. Mark's statement just prior to his departure that additional funding was needed. Marilyn asked about the statistics on family giving and asked that whatever appeal was sent out, would go to each parishioner and not just to Mass attendees. Dennis stated that our annual report to parishioners shows the range of contributions - dollars vs. number of parishioners. John stated that the real solution was to increase the number of parishioners by an evangelization program and to delay Grateful Giving by at least six months. Janice stated we should simply inform parishioners of the facts, and asked where were the young families? Dan wanted to know more about the message Grateful Giving sends to parishioners. In response Fr. Tom stated that the letter to parishioners is tweaked by the pastor to personalize it, and he can also determine a list of parishioners who would not receive the appeal. Kevin was impressed by Resurrection's enthusiastic response to Fr. Oleksiak's past meeting regarding the choice of a new pastor and that a similar response would be achieved by the Grateful Giving program. Dennis reported that history shows that 20% of parishioners contribute 80% of a parish's

income. We must reach the 80% population and Grateful Giving does that. We concluded by proposing that in our annual report to parishioners we raise our financial concerns and state that if an increase is not achieved, then a more structured program would be initiated. Finally, Fr. Tom suggested that it would be best if Finance Council makes the appeal and spreads the message.

- 8) Other business: Fr. Tom announced that a change has been made to our offertory counting process wherein teams of four people have been established to count donations at 9 AM on Monday mornings. Also he has asked Diane Lioni to explore other banks for our accounts.
- 9) Fr. Tom has sent a letter to 19 area hotels and motels with Mass announcement cards.
- 10) After a closing prayer by Fr. Tom, the meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.

**Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 12, 2016 at 7:00 PM.**