

Special General Meeting MINUTES
St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor Parish, Edmonton
Purpose: General Communication
October 30, 2022, 12:30 PM

Present: Attendee list attached

The purpose of the Special General Meeting was for general communication with the membership and motions were not made at this meeting.

Usually, meeting minutes only contain information regarding decisions made. However, since the purpose of this meeting was for general communication, the Board chooses to report some of the information presented at this Special General Meeting. Bold text below indicates Special General Meeting agenda items and plain text below indicates information presented.

1. SOBOR XXIV Report

Not discussed at SOBOR XXIV, but of exceeding importance as a result of SOBOR XXIV, is that the Enthronement of His Eminence Archbishop Ilarion, Archbishop of Winnipeg & the Central Eparchy, Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, will take place Saturday, 19 November 2022, in the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Metropolitan Cathedral in Winnipeg, MB. Divine Liturgy (Hierarchical Rite) will commence at 9:30 A.M. Following the Divine Liturgy – celebratory banquet will be held in the cathedral hall. The Board of Management has not discussed how to celebrate this event as this enthronement was just announced.

In addition to the information reported in the President's letter to the membership dated August 24, 2022 regarding the decisions made during SOBOR XXIV, the following additional information was presented to those attending this Special General Meeting:

1. Up to four of the resolutions discussed and approved at SOBOR XXIV included levy increases.
2. A full-time employee to serve in the Office of Missions and Education was approved and the resulting increase to the per member levy payable to the Consistory by all Parishes across Canada is \$16.
3. A full-time communications officer was approved and the resulting increase to the per member levy payable to the Consistory by all Parishes across Canada is \$9.
4. A 1/3 time youth ministry employee was approved and the resulting increase to the per member levy payable to the Consistory by all Parishes across Canada is \$3.
5. Therefore, once all levy increases are implemented, the impact to St. Andrew's membership is that the minimum donation to allow membership privileges increases from the current \$175 to \$203 per adult (\$406 per couple).
6. There is no indication when the Consistory will be implementing these levy increases.
7. Furthermore, also approved was the ability for the Consistory to potentially hire (on an as required basis) a Chief Operating Officer (COO) which is intended to assist the Chancellor with non-religious responsibilities. If and when implemented, this will increase the levy by \$13 annually, causing our Parish's new \$203 minimum donation to \$219 per adult (\$438 per couple).

2. Western Eparchy Assembly Report

The WE Assembly was held on October 22, 2022 at St. John's Cathedral. The delegates from St. Andrew's included Ernest and Vivian Skakun and Michael Zukiwsky. The meeting of the Assembly took place in the nave of the Cathedral. Of the 58 registered delegates, 55 attended as well as 2 observers. Those attending represented approximately 2 dozen parishes from across British Columbia and Alberta.

Events of the Assembly included:

1. His Eminence Archbishop Ilarion opened the Assembly providing opening remarks
2. Various reports were presented:
 1. Financial Report
 2. Report of the Financia Review Committee

3. Levies 2022/23 (remain at \$15 or optional \$20 per individual)
 4. Report from the St. Andrew's College in Winnipeg
 5. Reports from 3 WE camps: Bar-V-Nok, Kievski Hi, Kolomayka (located in Aldergrove Regional Park close to Vancouver BC – actually in between White Rock and Abbotsford, BC).
3. Elections held for upcoming 2022/23 term:
 1. Western Eparchy Council
 2. Financial Review Committee
 3. Resolutions
 4. Vote on Proposed Budget
 4. UOCC Chancellor Fr. Charles Baxter attended the Assembly and provided some information about upcoming priorities for the Consistory
 5. A Youth Appreciation Banquet was held where approximately 15 of the children from St. Andrew's were in attendance.
- 3. Financial Support for humanitarian aid in Ukraine – donations can be made to:**
1. To UOCC Western Eparchy earmarked for **Humanitarian Aid in Ukraine**.
 2. To UOCC Western Eparchy earmarked for Orphanage Project in Ukraine, a project His Eminence Archbishop Ilarion has spearheaded for a number of years.
 3. To Canada-Ukraine Foundation (CUF) specifying "Support to Ukraine". Refer to CUF website <https://www.cufoundation.ca/>
- 4. Monetary and Material Support to Ukrainian Nationals in Alberta is required – donations can be made to:**
1. Monetary donations to Canada-Ukraine Foundation (CUF) specifying "Support to Ukrainian Nationals in Alberta". Refer to CUF website <https://www.cufoundation.ca/>
 2. Donations of clothes, toiletries, etc. to Free Store for Ukrainian Newcomers. Refer to UCC-APC website <https://www.facebook.com/freestoreedmonton>
 3. Donations of furniture to UOCC-APC warehouse. Please refer to UCC-APC website: <https://uatoabinfo.ca/en/>

Question raised from the floor: What, as a parish, are we doing for newcomers/refugees from Ukraine? Another parish is having an evening set aside for them.

Answer: Nothing other than providing support literature in the atrium.

Please note – it is not the responsibility of only the Board members to determine or complete assistance projects for Ukrainian Nationals settling in our community. If members have ideas of these types of projects, please contact any of the Board members for resources to proceed with this assistance.

5. Financial Update provided by Treasurer.

To date this year, our Parish has incurred more expenses than income. The Parish losses to date in 2022 is a staggering \$71,000. Extrapolated to the end of the year – that is equivalent of a loss of \$100,000 for this year.

To put perspective into that amount, ***this amount is roughly only 1/3 of our total expenses*** budgeted for the year. To me, a frightening reality.

An evaluation of the expenses incurred indicate that we do not spend frivolously! We simply do not have enough income to cover expenses. We just received the donation from the Mens' Club and hope that the Ladies' Auxiliary will soon be making their donation. The financial report presented does not take these donations into account simply because of timing.

Question raised from the floor: What is the state of the sale of the manse?

Answer: Our plan is not to sell it at this point as it brings in a healthy monthly profit.

Question raised from the floor: Did the cutback of activities due to Covid affect our finances?

Answer: Yes, both directly and indirectly, but that is not the only contributing factor to deteriorating finances. We've been spending more money than we have as income annually for a number of years.

An indirect consequence to the Parish – COVID affected the Ladies Auxiliary and Mens' Club fundraising activities. The Ladies' Auxiliary couldn't hold bazaars and bakesales. The Mens' Club, who rely largely on gaming fund income from volunteer working at bingos and casinos, saw closing and attendance limitations to these types of events, which paused the Men's Club income. Therefore, the abilities of both the Ladies Auxiliary and the Mens' Club to donate monies to the Parish is decreasing.

An example of a direct consequence – the Parish would've had to stop holding monthly perogy dinners as a result of COVID. However, there haven't been monthly perogy dinners because of lack of volunteers since before COVID.

6. Fundraising is an absolute need due to our financial position.

The Parish needs more money coming in i.e., more members, higher membership fees, or both. However, there are a number of members who already are not contributing their minimum donation amount toward membership privileges, so the success of raising minimum donation levels is questionable.

Or, we need to fundraise through more volunteer activities.

For example, monthly perogi dinners used to raise approximately \$20,000 annually to the Parish, but a lack of volunteers to lead that organizing committee and to work at the dinners has caused the Parish to stop offering those dinners. The Board has made a conscious decision to not man that committee as it is already volunteering on the Board.

Perhaps other Parish members will have to contribute to that specific and other fundraising committees.

7. How does our financial position affect the hiring of:

i. Office Administrator

ii. Facility Janitor

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic when our UOCC Metropolitan at the time, His Eminence Archbishop Yuriy instructed all UOCC parishes to cease all activities (in order to help maintain the safety of our membership and the public), the Board of Management chose to stop using the services of our contract office administrator and janitor at that time. Presently, due to our heavy financial losses occurring this year, the Board of Management is hesitant to hire paid staff to fill those positions.

For almost two years now, we have re-opened our facility. With that re-use brings responsibilities to clean and to offer services to not only our membership, but to those of the public looking to St. Andrew's as a community.

Weekly Divine Liturgy and other worship services are celebrated – people attend, as a minimum bringing with them dirt from the outside on their shoes; shoe grime is exaggerated in the winter months. Some might use a tissue and drop it in the garbage. Washrooms are used.

We continue to rent the portions of our facility weekly to three groups. We require their rental fees as additional income, but their use requires us to clean the facility – sweep and mop floors, take out garbage, clean toilets.

CLEANING is required. Who wants to attend a dirty facility?

In the absence of formal, paid janitorial staff, volunteers are required. About a dozen members have offered to come in and clean the facility – about a third of them Board members.

What can you do to assist our Parish in this regard?

In the absence of formal, paid office administrative staff, volunteers are required. Currently our treasurer is handling most minimal services of the answering phones and answering emails when he goes to the office to work on the financial bookkeeping. However, there is more to do.

What can you do to assist the Parish in this regard?