

**Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
Council meeting minutes, Dec. 9, 2024**

Attendees: Fr. Chris, Dennis Fall, Steve Fall, Jacob Fall, Paula McDaniels, Megan Jansa, Jerry Kistner, and Steve Dzubay. Dan Thomas was absent.

Call to order by President Dennis Fall at 11:50 am with Fr. C leading "O Heavenly King".

The **Secretary's Report** of Nov. 3, 2024, meeting was reviewed. Jacob wished to correct that a recent gift to the Cemetery Fund was \$103 – not \$100, as stated. Motion by Jansa, seconded by Kistner, to approve minutes as revised.

The **Treasurer's Report** showed an investment balance of \$136,414.47; checking/savings balance of \$62,065.77, and \$80,000 invested with Legion Capital, for period ending 11/30/24. Jacob noted there were no unusual expenses, but some increased cash-flow due to the sale of three cemetery plots. He also noted an auto-withdrawal from EO Johnson for copier maintenance contract – an option we declined with the purchase of a new machine in January 2024. Dzubay will follow-up with EO Johnson and get it stopped.

Jacob noted he may have missed a Dec. 2 deadline to renew a CD with Citizens. He was reminded we have a 10-day "grace" period for such renewals. In Jacob's absence, Fr. C agreed to contact Citizens the next day and renew the certificate. Jansa offered to help Jacob resolve a security certification with *American Church* to assure online contributions aren't interrupted.

Sisterhood Report: McDaniels provided highlights from last month's Sisterhood gathering at Val Fall's, noting discussion about minor coffee hour changes. Gifts of \$100 each were approved for: Nikki Thomas (to help defray costs of weekly prosphora-baking; Clayton Fire Dept.; Lifeline Food Pantry; and Focus Minnesota.

On behalf of the **Cemetery Committee**, Steve Fall reported a positive resolution to the McDaniels request for a bench-style monument. The bench was mounted on a larger slab, simplifying future mowing and trimming. Jacob suggested the committee consider increasing plot prices for non-members and non-Orthodox Christians. No action taken.

Pastor's Report: Fr. C reported another new family – Joe & Lauren Fieldbinder & kids, from Barronett —has begun attending. Among upcoming events are the Dec. 11 Healing Service, Chrismations of Johnathan & Hal, and Christmas program on Dec. 22, and Great Blessing of Water on Sunday, Jan. 5. A significant volume of blankets and clothing were delivered recently to FOCUS by Sue Dzubay.

Under **Old Business**, it was noted that mouse-droppings continue to be found in the Sunday School area and kitchen drawers. Kistner will contact Plunkett's for follow-up.

Under **New Business**, Jacob presented a first draft of the 2025 budget. Several minor revisions were suggested. The topic will be revisited in January.

Jacob noted that a church schoolteacher inquired whether it might be feasible to relocate the Sunday School to St. Michael's Hall, due to crowding and noise distractions from nearby coffee hour. General discussion ensued about church growth, considerations of using the hall for church school during cold-weather months, etc. No action was taken.

Next meeting was set for Sunday, Jan.12th, 2025. Meeting adjourned at 12:38 pm on a motion by Kistner, seconded by Steve Fall, followed by singing of "It is Truly Meet."

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Dzubay, (*volunteered* secretary)