



St. Mark COC – Troy – Board Meeting Minutes December 6, 2015

ATTENDANCE

- **Present:** Fr. Mina, Fr. Maximus, Magid Athnasios, Karim ElFishawy, Maged Essak, Miriam Howard, Ashraf Morcos, Mark Nasr, Nadia Zaki
- **Excused Absences:** None
- **Unexcused Absences:** None

INTRODUCTION

- Fr. Maximus began the meeting with prayer at 12:30pm
- The minutes from the previous board meeting were approved as presented.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

- I. **Emad Looka – Service Committee Updates**
 - a. Face to face meeting with moderators scheduled on Dec 17
 - b. Safety of St. Mark – Doors are locked and often inaccessible because not many keys distributed. Emad will communicate with Naguib
 - c. Permission slip for events that take place off site or require transportation have been drafted. They will apply to all congregants (children and adults). Will be kept indefinitely in records and stored electronically.
 - d. Ragaii Bishay is heading the deacons' service.
 - e. services@stmarkmi.org email address where congregants can find information on how to serve or volunteer will be linked to church website.
 - f. Starting to think about the grand opening of St. Mary & St. Philopateer church of committee. Assign a meeting a board member as a point of contact.

NEW BUSINESS:

- I. Finance Update: Maged Essak updated the board that the church will need to refinance two houses, as the mortgage will mature on the 28th of this month. 10 year mortgages are currently available with low interest rates.
- II. OYOM project is still in need of \$150,000; Fathers will announce reminders to the congregation weekly until the goal is met for completion of the project.
- III. Mark Nasr presented a proposal submitted by an architect for site planning for St. Mark's and for conceptual plan of a multi-use facility and increased parking. The The proposal has been made available to all

board members, who are asked to respond with comments by Sunday, December 13 to decide to accept the proposal and move forward. *Update: Six board members voted to approve moving forward with obtaining a site plan and conceptual plan, one board member (Magid Athnasios) voted not to approve. The majority decision was to approve the proposal.*

- IV. Miriam compiled some costs associated with projects for the awareness committee. We agreed to try to implement these 'green' changes by the time St. Mary church is completed and open for prayer. Projects include hand dryers to reduce paper waste and mess; touch less sinks and centralized bulleting boards where information can be posted in an organized manner. A more complete cost estimate will be prepared and presented to the board for decision.
- V. The Atrium (foyer) of St. Mary & St. Philopateer church will be repainted – no exact timeline currently.
- VI. The next quarterly town hall meeting with the congregation is scheduled for Sunday, January 24th, 2016.
- VII. Magid Athnasios raised the issue brought up by a congregation member of converting the church house basement into a meeting area for college students. Father Mina indicated that the church house is in fact being use as the venue for the college meetings on Wednesdays. The Fathers and the Board are open to the basement being updated and used by the college youth- with the precondition being that there will need to be a Servant to oversee activities and be present when there are any college youth gathering. Interested congregation members will attempt to identify the servants that would take the overseer role.
- VIII. We discussed the expansion of a "new" church facility in the Warren area: the Fathers and the Board agree with the concept of a church located near the Fraser, Roseville and Warren area to serve the many families living in this area. There are an estimated number of 100 families in this geographical area. There is currently a church for sale at 9 mile & Hoover, which is also known to Dr. Ashraf Morcos who has been interacting on the same idea of a church in this geographic area. Dr. Ashraf will work with members in this area to facilitate this project. We agreed also that the board is willing to out together a template (or draft plan) which any group looking to expand the church to other areas can use to determine the feasibility and steps of starting a new church expansion. Some suggestions would be to find a church that could accommodate at least 300 people and to create a group of committed families who are willing to financially support and support the services of the new church.
- IX. We discussed some possible mission statements. This discussion will be tabled until the January 2016 board meeting for further discussion and decision.
- X. Nativity Liturgies – If St. Mary's is not completed by Christmas, it was agreed to hold two Nativity liturgies (one at St. Mark and one at St. Mary/St. Philopateer).

OTHER BUSINESS:

IV. The next board meeting will take place on Sunday, January 10, 2016

V. Fr. Mina concluded the meeting with prayer at 2:15pm.

Signatures:

Fathers:

Board Members:

Secretary: