

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING - June 19, 2024

The Finance Council of the Divine Grace Parish met for a regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, at the St. Ferdinand Campus. The meeting was called to order by Jamie Shearer, Chair, with an opening prayer by Father Jim.

Those in attendance: Father Jim, Jamie Shearer, Amy Behun, Jay Cortez, Felicia DiNardo, Joe Ennis, Chelsey Knapton, Licia Lentz, Frank Lordi, Kate Maseth-Ready, Frances Taral, Andrew Welch, and John Greci.

Those excused: Peter Boyer, Daniel Jenkins, Michael Powell

A. BRIEF REPORTS AND UPDATES:

1. Changing Banks by John Greci - Linda McAfee is in the process of closing out all accounts. This transition by NexTier has been very smooth. Not only is it great to see interest income, but no nickel and diming of fees.
2. St. Agatha Property Disposal by Father Jim. Frank Lordi and his associates have expressed interest in the property for the possibility of apartments/condos. They are working with Hanna Real Estate. There is a big concern about sewage issues, and the process continues to unfold.
3. The Communication Staff Position by Jamie Shearer - The search is ongoing. Interviews being conducted by Jamie, Seminarian Erik, Jason Gawaldo, Jennifer Livorse, and Father Jim. We are interviewing for a Communication Director and Digital Media position. Father noted that the position is critical for outreach, event advertising/marketing, and developing a year-round marketing plan. Kate asked if we should hire an outside marketing firm. Father Jim stated we are not a corporation, and he does not want to go that route. Father Jim said he is willing to be patient and will continue looking.

B. BIG THINK:

1. 2024-2025 Budget Development by John Greci, Amy Behun, Andrew Welch. Andrew asked if there was anything glaring or needed further discussion. John said he is confident on a granular level and noted it can still be tweaked until the end of June. Father Jim stated that John has done a great job of keeping staff accountable....Jason and Faith Formation, Music, for example, and substitute organists... with respect to where are they in the budget. Father feels good with how it is all working. Last year, we simply took expenses and divided by 12. This year, we used last year's budget when needed, producing a very good, realistic, conservative budget. John noted we are deferring the festival – it will not show up until September...has a lag effect, like the Fish Fry. We also discussed the very high-end music we have; folks brought in, such as cantors that resulted in a \$20,000.00 expense. We also need to give thought to codes - 5020 \$200.00 Altar Wine. With that, discussion ended. A motion was presented to advance the budget to the Diocese by Andrew Welch and a second by Frances Tartal and passed by a unanimous voice vote. John Greci thanked everyone for their help, and Andrew stated John was very generous with his time.

2. Update on Holy Redeemer Remodel Expenditures by Father Jim - Father said he was very pleased with the work; Frances asked how the pews looked. Andrew Welch asked with respect to naming rights for the Holy Redeemer Pews if more than one name was possible on the pew.

C. ACTION ITEMS:

1. The minutes of May 15, 2024, Finance Council meeting were read and approved, with a motion by Licia Lentz, second by Amy Behun and passed by a unanimous voice vote.
2. 2024 Finance Statements through May 2024 by Father Jim and John Greci. Some highlights: Budget Collections \$3M, Actual Budget \$3.4MM; Budget Donations \$193MM, Actual Budget Donations \$245MM; Budget Bingo \$12MM Actual Bingo \$53MM. Bingo was up because of increased attendance. Budget Operating Revenue \$3.5MM Actual Operating Revenue \$4.2 MM. We are in our third year as Divine Grace Parish with respect to the Appeal; we have exceeded expectations.
3. Licia Lentz put together a raffle basket from the Finance Council for the Festival.
4. Father Jim asked that Finance Council members attend the first mass since the renovations at Holy Redeemer Campus the weekend of June 29th.
5. Divine Grace Parish will be represented at the Cranberry Township Community Days July 11th -13th. We will have booth #89.


D MOVING FORWARD 9FUTURE MEETINGS):

1. My Catholic Will to be discussed at the July 2024 meeting. This is already in place at St. Luke's Parish.
2. Development and Stewardship Initiatives. The Diocese will come to the Finance Council to give a presentation.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with a prayer at 8:30 P.M.


Due to vacations, there will be no Finance Council Meeting in July. Due to the Festival in August, that meeting will be rescheduled to September 18, 2024, at the St. Gregory School (Library)*

Respectfully Submitted



Kathleen Maseth-Ready
Recording Secretary

Approved



Jamie Shearer
Chair

*September 18, 2024, meeting replaced by special Zoom Meeting on Tuesday, September 10, 2024.