

# Holy Myrrhbearers

## ORTHODOX MISSION

### **Annual Parish Assembly Sunday 26 January 2020**

**1. Opening prayer**

The meeting was opened with prayer.

**2. Adoption of agenda**

The proposed agenda was adopted.

**3. Approval of minutes**

The minutes from the previous Parish Assembly on 27 January 2019 were approved.

**4. Rector's report (review of 2019 and looking ahead to 2020)**

Fr Geoffrey Ready gave a report on the growth and development of the mission in its third full year, focusing on the six ministry areas: worship, hospitality, teaching, service, stewardship, and administration.

- Highlights of **worship** ministry include:
  - Addition of paid choir director, Peter Drobac
  - Increased attendance at weekday Vespers services
  - Greater number of Lenten and festal services
  - Establishment of weekly Saturday Vigil in English
  - Going forward, there is an opportunity to make music ministry a key part of outreach
  - Need to replace the iconostasis in the next 12-18 months
  - New Divine Liturgy book has been successful; we may look at a similar book for Liturgy of the Hours
  - Special thanks for all those who set up, take down, the choir, and everyone involved in the worship ministry

- Highlights of **hospitality** ministry include:
  - Changing to full meal after Sunday Liturgy, with organised teams
  - Establishment of social activities calendar
  - Ongoing need to be welcoming to visitors and new members
  - We need to operate as a family, looking after one another: if someone can't feed themselves, can't pay their bills, need support, any needs, they need to be able to turn to us
  - Going forward, more outings, get-togethers, and other activities outside church
  - Possibility of establishing a parish directory and prayer list
  
- Highlights of **teaching** ministry include:
  - We need to move forward with something for children (such as Catechesis of the Good Shepherd), so we need people who are willing to train as catechists and deliver same
  - Ideally by September we will have a weekly Sunday programme for children
  - For adults, we have access to lots of adult education at the university, including offer to informally audit courses. Even if we can't come physically, all the lectures and reading materials are available online. Father Geoffrey can also provide resources on many topics
  
- Highlights of **service** ministry include:
  - Collaboration with Yonge Street Mission in terms of volunteering together (e.g. Evergreen Centre), fundraising (e.g. Coldest Night of the Year in February)
  - Establishment of St Hermione Lay Pastoral Visitors Programme to recruit, train and supervise lay people to visit those who are housebound and lonely, or isolated in hospitals, nursing homes or other institutions: Deacon Symeon Price led an introductory course to train 10 people in May 2019; during 2020, this programme will need to be set up as a separate not-for-profit corporation and charity (in order to ensure it becomes a pan-Orthodox ministry, not just tied to Holy Myrrhbearers, and also to qualify as an 'agency' for higher-level background checks); to accomplish this, designated donations will be received and receipted by Holy Myrrhbearers for the first two quarters of 2020 (then reviewed after that); funds will be handed over to the new organisation to create a start-up fund for the new charity
  - Myrrhbearers Traditional Burial Society needs a couple of lay leaders to take it forward; the first task will be about workshopping and awareness raising at Orthodox churches in the GTA, letting people know that traditional Orthodox burials are still available

- Prison ministry opportunities may be explored in the coming year, especially under the guidance of visiting priest Fr Richard Rene
- Highlights of **stewardship** ministry include:
  - All these projects and activities require resources, not just money but time, talents
  - A few key donors are still carrying a lot of the financial load for the mission; a stewardship committee has been proposed to ensure that all members are drawn into ways of contributing their resources and talents
  - Over 2019, part of the stewardship ministry of Holy Myrrhbearers has been overseeing the establishment of a daughter mission, St Maria of Paris (formerly known as "Christ the King") in west Hamilton with Fr Yuri Hladio, who had served at Holy Myrrhbearers as a deacon; in the coming year, St Maria of Paris will be set up as a separate organisation and charity; designated donations will be received and passed on for the new mission until such time as they receive their charitable status from the CRA
- Highlights of **administration** ministry include:
  - The main responsibility of this ministry is to ensure we continue to meet our fiduciary responsibilities to the CRA and our donors
  - Four core positions on parish council, though other positions can be created, so people should feel free to step forward if they see a place for themselves on the parish council

## 5. **Financial Report for 2019**

Treasurer Alexandra Cumby presented the financial statements for 2019 (attached). Some of the key points were:

- 50 tax receipts were generated (some of those were for couples who file one tax return), and about 10-15 were people who gave only once
- Number of active donors has gone up by 30%
- Overall income increased from \$67K to over \$108K
- Expenses were up 79% from last year, from \$58K to \$104K, but due to increased donations we still balanced the budget
- Strides were made in more adequately compensating Father Geoffrey and Peter as choir director
- Expenses for fellowship supplies and liturgical supplies increased as attendance increased

- The archdiocesan tithe is calculated at 10% of expenditures (apart from the tithe itself and any external giving)

## **6. Budget for 2020**

Alexandra also presented the budget for 2020, highlighting:

- The budget for this coming year is ambitious, representing an increase of 30% from last year, for both expenses and donations
- Increases have been included for both the rector and choir director
- An amount of \$5K has been set aside for a new iconostasis
- Travel expenses include the archdiocesan assembly in Montreal (see below)
- The budget excludes the stewardship of donations for both St Maria of Paris Mission in Hamilton (daughter mission) and St Hermione Lay Pastoral Visitor Programme, both of which will be formed as separate entities and charities during 2020; although we are receiving funds and passing them on for these two new charities until they have CRA approval, they are not considered "on our books," and neither income nor expenditures for these two organisations will be counted as that of Holy Myrrhbearers

Father Geoffrey noted that budget is not set in stone, as parish council has power to vary it depending on circumstances as they emerge. The 30% estimated increase is a leap of faith and commitment to parish growth.

After some discussion, the 2019 financial statement and 2020 budget were adopted unanimously (moved by Irene Cassar, seconded by Joseph Clarke).

## **7. Election of parish council**

Fr Geoffrey presented the following slate of officers for election:

First Warden – Louise Neville  
Second Warden – Vlad Vassilovski  
Treasurer – Alexandra Cumby  
Secretary – Irene Cassar

The slate of officers was elected unanimously (moved by Misha Drobac, seconded by Milena Djokovic).

## **8. Election of auditing committee**

For the auditing committee to support Alexandra as treasurer, Father Geoffrey proposed Shaun Cumby and Joseph Clarke. A third, more external person could be added by parish council. The committee was unanimously approved (moved by Irene Cassar, seconded by David Hunt).

## **9. Election of lay delegate to archdiocesan assembly**

Fr Geoffrey reported that the tri-annual archdiocesan assembly would be held from 22 to 24 July, in Chateauguay, Quebec. Every parish and missions can send one member of the clergy and a lay delegate as voting members, though other people are welcome to attend as observers. After opening the floor to volunteers to attend as lay delegate from Holy Myrrhbearers, Irene Cassar volunteered. This was approved unanimously (moved by Joseph Clarke, seconded by Lara Hunt).

## **10. Other upcoming events**

Fr Geoffrey reported on other upcoming events in 2020. A key visit would be that of Archbishop Irenée for the feast of the Myrrhbearers, 2-3 May. During the visit, some of our servers may be tonsured as readers or made subdeacons. A parish banquet will be organised to celebrate the visit. Fr Geoffrey also announced that he will be speaking at a Saturday 28 March retreat in Oshawa.

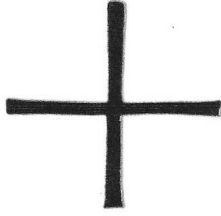
## **11. Other business**

There was no further business.

## **12. Closing prayer**

The meeting was closed with prayer.





# Holy Myrrhbearers

## ORTHODOX MISSION

### Income Statement

Donations	2018	2019
Tax-Receipted	52,643	93,685
Canada Helps	10,639	10,886
Anonymous	3,703	3,875
<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>66,986</b>	<b>108,446</b>

Expenses	2018	2019
Rector	38,627	57,599
Choir Director		12,081
Rent	4,520	5,707
Travel	2,747	1,068
Liturgical expenses - capital	1,258	1,899
Liturgical supplies	885	1,401
Visitor expenses	658	1,946
Operational expenses	2,842	3,398
Choir expenses	391	550
Fellowship supplies	474	2,186
Mission expenses	327	3,076
Miscellaneous expenses	57	126
Tithe	5,279	9,104
External giving		4,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>58,064</b>	<b>104,140</b>

<b>Net Income</b>	<b>8,922</b>	<b>4,307</b>
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### Balance Sheet

Assets	2018	2019
BMO chequing acct	28,517	18,592
BMO Investorline acct		26,015
HST rebate receivable	1,728	747
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>30,245</b>	<b>45,354</b>

Liabilities & Equity	2018	2019
Archdiocesan tithe	5,279	9,104
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>5,279</b>	<b>9,104</b>
Retained earnings	20,755	30,245
Net income	8,922	4,307
HST rebate	568	747
Investment gains		952
<b>Equity</b>	<b>30,245</b>	<b>36,250</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>35,523</b>	<b>45,354</b>