



St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church

10660 River Road, Potomac, MD 20854

Tel: 301.299.2704 Fax: 301.576.5664

www.serbianchurch.org

*** FOR DISTRIBUTION TO PARISH ***

Trusteeship Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2019

The meeting began at 7:15 pm with a prayer led by Father Vasilije. The motion to accept/approve the minutes from our December 2018 trusteeship meeting was passed unanimously.

Major Discussion Items

Trusteeship Changes. We are awaiting a final decision from the Diocese on the realignment of our parish trusteeship for 2019. Parishioners will be notified of those changes very soon.

Altar Donations. Father Vasilije reported that donations have been received to fully cover the cost of a new sterling silver Cross as well as a new Gospel book that includes prayers for every day of the year. We thank those parishioners for their kindness and generosity.

Web Site Hosting Donations. Father also reported that a parishioner has generously agreed to cover the cost of hosting our parish web site for another year, and another donation was received to fully cover the cost of our parish's *Flickr* (online photo hosting and sharing) subscription for another year as well. We also thank both of those parishioners for their kindness and generosity.

Upcoming Events on the Parish Calendar. Preparations continue for our St. Sava celebration to be held February 2nd-3rd. Honored guests include His Grace Bishop Irinej; Their Royal Highnesses Prince Aleksandar and Princess Katherine of Serbia; Her Excellency Zeljka Cvijanovic, President of the Republic of Srpska; and His Excellency Djerdj Matkovic, Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to the USA. Further updates and online registration details will be provided to parishioners via email. This year's annual assembly of our Diocese of Eastern America will be held February 22nd-23rd at St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church in Monroeville, PA. Father, Mark Rasevic, and Milan Visnick will participate and represent our parish. We have also been notified that the burial for our parishioner Jimmy Wood has been scheduled for May 10, 2019 at 3 PM at Arlington National Cemetery.

Candle Making Business Venture. We anticipate that, by the time of our Bishop's visit for our St. Sava celebration February 2nd-3rd, the Diocese will sanction and approve our



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new candle making venture, thereby enabling us to begin operation. This is exciting news and we will update parishioners as we move forward!

Loan Refinancing Update. We have more exciting news! We have received the Commitment Letter from John Marshall Bank, dated January 16, 2019, approving our loan request. The terms are identical to those included in the Term Sheet the bank had previously sent us, including no requirement for a guarantee from the Diocese. The trustees were in unanimous agreement that Mark Rasevic sign/return the executed Commitment Letter and remit the required fee to the bank. We will continue to keep parishioners updated as this process moves forward, and we thank everyone for their prayers and continued support.

New Committees. As a first step in changing how the trusteeship identifies, staffs, executes, and monitors progress of required parish work, we have formed 4 initial standing committees (Communications; Building & Grounds; Loan & Finance; and Liturgical). Stay tuned for more information on this initiative and on how you can help.

Financial Report. Peter Bizic presented the Treasurer's Report. We currently have approximately \$19K in checking and approximately \$90K being held separately for the loan re-financing initiative. In light of our financial challenges as we proceed with the new loan from John Marshall Bank, the Diocese has reduced our Diocesan Assessment fee to \$100 per month for 2019, with past balance held in abeyance for now. In addition, Fr. Milos (Zdralic), a member of the Diocesan Council (Diocese of Eastern America), generously donated \$100 to cover our first month's assessment. Peter also stated that he is continuing to work on 2018 tax letters for all of our donors, and that he hopes to have them all out within the next few weeks.

Sunday Coffee Hours/Lunches. Parishioners may still volunteer to host a coffee hour after Divine Liturgy by using the easy on-line signup sheet at:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b4fafa72ca75-coffee>.

New Business

Twitter Account. In the spirit of continuing to improve our communications with parishioners and the broader community, a Twitter account for our church has been opened. Our Twitter handle is @SerbianChurchDC. If you are on Twitter, please follow us, and pass the news on to your family, kumovi, and friends!



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Easy Way to Financially Help Our Church. Our church now has an account with Amazon Smile. From now on, as you shop online at *Amazon.com* and make your purchases throughout the year, the Amazon Smile Foundation will automatically donate 0.5% of all your eligible purchases to our church. Rather than using the usual "*Amazon.com*" link, please update your bookmarks to use the following Amazon Smile link instead:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/82-3650722>

You then just sign in as usual, submit your orders as usual, receive your deliveries as usual, and our church's account will automatically be updated. No other special effort needed!

Important News from the Patriarchate. Visoki Dečani, the 14th century Serbian Orthodox Monastery in Kosovo and Metohija, has unveiled a new website with versions in English, Serbian, and several other languages. The site contains regularly updated news about the life of the monastery, along with scans of materials from the monastery's library, audio recordings from Divine services, professional photographs of items from the monastery treasury, and an online store from which monastery products can be ordered. You may access the site at the following links:

<https://www.decani.org/en/> (English version)

<https://www.decani.org/sr/> (Serbian version)

We closed the meeting with a prayer at 10:50 pm. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday February 11, 2019.