



## St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church

10660 River Road, Potomac, MD 20854

Tel: 301.299.2704 Fax: 301.576.5664

[www.serbianchurch.org](http://www.serbianchurch.org)

\*\*\* FOR DISTRIBUTION TO PARISH \*\*\*

Trusteeship Meeting Minutes

July 8, 2019

The meeting began with a prayer at 7:05 pm. The motion to accept/approve the minutes from our June 2019 trusteeship meeting was passed unanimously.

### Major Discussion Items

Minor Flooding. Mark Rasevic provided an update on cleanup following this morning's minor flooding in the church and hall. Everything has been wet/dry vacuumed and, at this point, the major concerns are carpeting, dry wall, and mold. By late week following our meeting, Mark reported that we dodged a bullet primarily because the excess water was vacuumed up quickly and we were able to set up high-capacity dehumidifiers and carpet fans immediately afterwards to quickly decrease humidity levels. There does not appear to be any permanent damage to the carpeting in the church, nor does it appear that water got behind the drywall and into the insulation. All non-carpeted surfaces have already been cleaned, the dehumidifying and drying equipment has been removed, chairs have been put back in the church, and everything appears to be fine. We will continue to monitor. The carpeting still needs to be cleaned (will be done next week), and we are grateful to Bojan Simendic of Apartment Restorers LLC and all of those who responded to Mark's requests for assistance to help with cleanup.

Triennial Church Assembly (Sabor). Father Vasilije and our parish delegates (Milan Visnick (also a representative of the Diocesan Council), John Buffalini, and Milica Tasic) will be departing later this week to attend the Triennial Sabor to be held in the Chicago area. Father Chris Wallace (of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese) will fill in and serve Divine Liturgy this Sunday July 14th.

Vacation. Father Vasilije will be on vacation the latter part of this month. Father Miroslav will fill in on Sunday July 21st (we will also hold a picnic that day) and the church building will be closed from Monday July 22nd through Saturday July 27th.

Upcoming Events on the Parish Calendar. Next week in Washington DC, Father Vasilije and His Grace Bishop Irinej will take part in the second annual Ministerial Conference on Religious Freedom sponsored by the U.S. State Department. Bishop Irinej expects to meet with both Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Ambassador for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback. During his stay, Bishop Irinej also plans to meet



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with representatives of the White House Office of Public Liaison regarding preparations for the upcoming Serbian American Leadership Conference which will be held this November in Washington, DC. Further, on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend we will be joined by two eminent Serbian professors who will present a lecture on *The Role of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Today's Society*. Also, in mid-September, Father will serve a solemn memorial service for all the victims of Jasenovac, the largest Ustaša WWII death camp often referred to as the "Auschwitz of the Balkans."

Financial Report. John Buffalini presented the Treasurer's Report. Both the June and July mortgage payments have been made on-time or early, we are keeping up with our \$100 monthly assessments to the Diocese, and we are moving towards a new "steady state" where most of our business will be conducted out of John Marshall Bank. John also reported that June was a very busy month that included much clean-up of the balance sheet in terms of paying down outstanding debt and unpaid bills. It was a slow month in terms of donations, and as we always experience in July and August, donations are expected to once again slow significantly due to summer vacations. As a result, we will need to be even more conservative than usual with expenses.

Parishioner Loans. With the first installment of semi-annual interest payments now due to those parishioners voluntarily participating in the loan re-financing initiative, John Buffalini took the action, within the next week or so, to send out the interest payment checks with accompanying letters to those parishioners.

Building & Grounds. Trimark has completed installation of the new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system for the first and second floors. There is no update on the negotiations with East West Tae Kwon Do regarding their desire to rent our hall and grounds for their camp program.

Candle Making Business Venture. Progress remains slow as we work to overcome some unexpected issues in starting operations.

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>.



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### New Business

New Standing Committee. To assist with oversight of the myriad of events we hold each year (e.g., St. Sava, Parish Slava, *SerbFests*, picnics, cultural events), the trusteeship unanimously approved formation of an overarching Events Management Committee for that purpose. Maja Lojanica kindly agreed to chair.

Tamburitza Association of America Event. This September, the Tamburitza Association of America is planning to hold an event in Herndon, VA. Our parish will set up and sell our bookstore items during the event. Stay tuned for more details!

Easy Way to Financially Help Our Church. 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. Please update your bookmarks to use the following *Amazon* link:

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

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!

We closed the meeting with a prayer at 8:45 pm. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday August 12, 2019.