

Minutes from PAX Steering Committee meeting June 13, 2024

The meeting opened at 12:03pm Eastern with a prayer.

PAX members have expressed interest in more in person events. The idea was brought forward of designating one Zoom-only liturgy a month as a Community Sunday. On Community Sundays, people can be encouraged to get together with another PAX member in person, to share the Zoom screen. Mass planners for a Community Sunday would note this on the Mass sheet. Because of the smaller number of people at Mass during the summer due to vacations, Community Sunday is something we agreed to try in September.

Last Sunday, June had squares for people on Zoom to see each other as well as the worship space. Steering committee members saw this as a way to bring community to people joining hybrid liturgy by Zoom and would like this to continue.

The steering committee was asked for guidance on Christmas Eve and on 2 Sundays in the summer. Fr. Joe Nangle is scheduled for in-person Mass on Sunday, December 22. Fr. Vincent Cushing is our only priest-presider available to celebrate Mass on Christmas Eve. The Steering Committee talked about past situations when an in-person Sunday and Christmas Eve are close together. We decided that there should be Masses on both December 22 and December 24. **Katy** DuGarm will contact Anne Kifer letting her know of the decision.

For a time it seemed that there would not be a priest-presider for either July 28 or August 4. Since then, Fr. Tuck Grinnell is available. The steering committee recommends Fr. Tuck on July 28 and see if an outreach presider is available on August 4. **Katy** will contact Anne Kifer and Mary Linda Sara with this recommendation.

PAX learned that Fr. Joe is no longer able to celebrate with NoVa Community. He is open to the idea of PAX inviting NoVa members to worship with us on Sunday when Fr. Joe is the celebrant for a hybrid liturgy. The next such Sunday is August 25. Marian Klymkowsky has contacts with NoVa. **Mary** Blissard will issue an invitation to NoVa by way of Marian.

The PAX Steering Committee sees benefits in collaboration with NoVa leadership. Sharing a liturgy is one step towards collaboration.

In 2023 NoVa Community finished a discernment process looking at the future on their community. Sometime before the pandemic, the PAX Community also went through a discernment process. The effort led by Megan Hookey arrived at similar conclusions.

The steering committee continued discussion of a gift to St. Luke Serbian Orthodox from previous meetings and emails. A few members have written to members of the steering committee, with concerns about investing in a building and in an iconostasis in particular. We were given history of PAX while it was part of St. Luke's Catholic Church and PAX members were active in that community. PAX at that time advocated for investing in people/charities and not in expanding the building. Regarding donating for an iconostasis in particular, women are not allowed behind that screen and onto the altar. Some within PAX expressed belief in the equality of all people before God. It would be against their beliefs to donate something which keeps women and lay people in general away from the altar. To date,

no donations have been made from the PAX general fund and that continues to be the case. Individuals will be made aware of this donation opportunity should they choose to participate.

Mary will reply to the people who expressed their concerns to let them know that while there will be a special collection for St. Luke Serbian Orthodox, the gift will be unrestricted and not tied to an iconostasis or the building. **Doug** will follow up with two people about leading a fund drive for unrestricted funds to go to St. Luke in recognition of their long hospitality toward PAX. **Mike** will contact people who have already made donations for St. Luke Serbian directed to the building fund, to see if an unrestricted donation is acceptable. If not, funds will be returned to those donors.

One person has stepped forward to be on the nominating committee. **Katy** and **Doug** will confer regarding other people to invite and will schedule a committee meeting.

At a recent liturgy, Charlie Hookey was absent and announcement time was in disarray. Mike Messenger leads announcements those Sundays when he is doing tech for Zoom-only liturgies. To avoid a Sunday without announcer in the future, we agreed that this should be the responsibility of Mass planners just in case Charlie is not there.

June Zhu and Tao Shen are moving to Denver.

- With their move is there a need for additional tech support people?
- Tao has organized hospitality, when we gather after Mass. Will he train someone as the replacement?
- June has assisted the treasurers in acknowledging donations. **Mike** will ask if June can continue to assist after her move.
- Because of the many contributions June and Tao have made to the successful functioning of PAX as a community, we feel that a celebration of them is in order.

Mike recommended that due to lower donations over the last several months Social Needs Fund disbursements should not be considered at this time. A significant portion of the bank account is earmarked for specific allocations, so not available for SNDC.

The next meeting of the PAX Steering Committee is scheduled for Friday July 12, 12:30pm Eastern time.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine DuGarm

Addendum:

The steering committee met again on Friday, June 21. Several objections have been made by community members to contributing to a building fund. Objections were also made to the item suggested as a need by the pastor of St. Luke Orthodox church, an iconostasis. The steering committee met to figure out a middle path of making a donation to St. Luke Orthodox without contributing to discrimination against women by not allowing them behind the iconostasis. It was decided that a contribution from the PAX community, made up of donations by individual members, would be an unrestricted gift to St. Luke Serbian Orthodox.