

Antiochian Women's Meeting May 20, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Fr. Nathan, Kr. Mandy, Kr. Ellen, Darlene Johnson, Claire Perez, Karla Newberry, Keidi Lewis, Leanne Albers, Donna Wentzel, Sarah Steiger, Wendy Sakoda

- Opening Prayer
- Fr. Nathan discusses his research on the Antiochian Women's group core purposes as discussed in Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women of North America literature;
 - To develop a spirit of Christian leadership, awareness, and commitment.
 - To foster a genuine expression of love and service for each other and the world around us through works of charity.
 - To encourage a sense of fellowship among our sisterhood.
 - To instill a deeper understanding of the heritage and traditions of the Orthodox Church.
 - The Antiochian Women bring all women of our Archdiocese together for prayer, charitable works, and mutual support as we strive to fulfill our calling to Christ to serve others. The goal gives us our motto: "A Sisterhood Serving Christ Through Serving Others."
 - Our first focus will be on the 2017 Service Project for the Archdiocese, "Strengthening the Ministries of our Church," both locally and at the Archdiocesan level. This covers a broad range of ministries that can include areas like senior housing projects, clothing and feeding the poor, supporting our youth, caring for the elderly, protecting the unborn, teaching about our faith, assisting seminarians and their families, establishing and nurturing missions and monasteries.
 - Our second focus will be a book study to encourage fellowship among our sisterhood. The book is "Hinds' Feet on High Places" by Hannah Hurnard, at the recommendation of Metropolitan JOSEPH.
 - A study guide was developed by an Orthodox woman that we will use to guide our discussions
 - We will coordinate the starting of the book club and use the study guide
 - The Fall Gathering is an annual event hosted by a regional parish to help develop and strengthen Antiochian Women in their local parishes. This year's Gathering will be hosted by St. Timothy's in Fairfield, CA (Kr. Barbara's church) on OCTOBER 6-8. We can discuss further our participation in this event.

Discussion

Keidi brought up the issue of how work towards our parish would be distributed among the Women's Group now that it is being reactivated. Fr. Nathan said that all the ministries of the church are under the direction of the Parish Council and are currently being evaluated and revamped. The "gap" that exists now between ministries won't always be a gap and that the Parish Council is developing a structure and means to work out the new ministries. A Town Hall and guest speaker specializing in revitalizing parish ministries are in the works.

Action Steps

- Women's group can start the book study
- Social Gatherings
- Regular meetings (monthly) and gather feedback for best meeting time.
- Sub-groups working on particular project (fundraisers, letter writing, etc.) would meet and plan options and report back to the larger group to for final decisions

- Elect Officers. Fr. Nathan prefers using a title like Facilitator, rather than President. In the role, the elected Facilitator would run the meetings, email all for topics for the agenda, bring printed agenda to the meetings, etc.
 - Keidi nominated Sarah Steiger as Secretary, Darlene seconded. All Ayes. Motion passes.
 - Sarah nominated Leanne Albers for Treasurer, Claire seconded. All Ayes, Motion passes.
 - Leanne nominated Keidi Lewis as Facilitator, Donna seconded. All Ayes. Motion passes.
 - Donna nominated Claire Perez as Assistant Facilitator, Leanne and Darlene seconded. All Ayes. Motion passes.
 - Elected officers will serve two-year terms.

Business

Kr. Mandy will be the Book Study Coordinator and start reaching out to women in the church about their interest and availability for the book study. More than one group could be formed depending on people's schedules.

We need a Service Project Coordinator or this role could be passed on for specific projects.

Meeting times: Sundays after church don't work well because of the conflict with choir practice. Saturday before Vespers is a possibility, as well as an weekday evening. We decided to try THURSDAY, JUNE 15 AT 7PM in the Fellowship Hall as our next meeting time and we will gather more feedback from members to determine regular meeting times.