

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

St. Ignatius Orthodox Church

August 23, 2025

- I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer – Fr. Philip Begley
- II. Roll Call -107 attendees signed in
- III. Appointment of Secretary – Celeste Thompson
- IV. Approval of Minutes for General Assembly 2024 – Dr. Michael Hyatt
Brandon made motion to accept, Harry 2nd, motion passed

V. Parish Reports:

The following organizations and committees are active and currently serving St. Ignatius. Their reports are included in August 22, 2025, church-wide email:

- A) Parish Council Chairman – David Oxley
- B) Building and Grounds – Christi Barr
- C) Organization Reports
 - a. AMEN – Eric Beard
 - b. AW – Angela Santana
 - c. Church School – Shellie Sowell
 - d. St. Titus
 - e. Teen SOYO – Tyson Hugee
 - f. YAM – Kip Perkins
- D) Ministry/Committee Reports
 - a. Benevolence – Mark and Christine Drechsler
 - b. Bereavement – Sh. Margie Naftel
 - c. Building Project/Iconography – David Oxley
 - d. Chanters – Brandon Baca
 - e. Children's Ministry – Danielle Sanford
 - f. Choir – Shelia Mullican
 - g. Family Night – Brandon Baca
 - h. Prison Ministry – David Phipps
 - i. Prosphora – Sh. Margie Naftel
 - j. Sacred Cleaning – Joan Kirkpatrick
 - k. St. Anthony's Bookstore – Martin and Ginger McGinty

- l. St. Tabitha Stitchers – Melinda Evinger
- m. Stewardship – Brandon Baca
- n. Strategic Planning – Dn. Michael Hyatt
- o. Temple Beautification – Cassie Hansen
- p. Ushers – Nathan Wright
- q. Wedding Committee – Sh. Allison Simon
- r. Welcome Committee – Sh. Gail Hyatt

VI. Pastor's Address – Fr. Philip Begley

Welcome to the 2nd General Assembly. At last year's assembly we were recovering from a flood and I addressed that as a major issue that needed to be fixed and that job is now complete. Dr. Mark McCollum was appointed to improve the cemetery, which has been enlarged, and a new fence was installed. The old temple has been repaired and improved, including roof repair and new carpeting. Thanks to Christi Barr and Seraphim Construction for the work accomplished.

Tyson Hugee was hired as Youth Director and is making an impact with the youth. A new stewardship campaign was established will be ongoing, intending to improve volunteer participation as well as giving. We are experiencing explosive growth. How do we take care of @500 people and provide their spiritual care? Encourage young men to attend seminary.

Concerning the status of iconography: Fr. Philip has spoken to Dmitry Shkolnik, and he has postponed his visit in order to include additional icons for the transepts along with those currently being constructed. The North American saints will be included. Donations to the icon fund will speed up this process.

Thanks to the clergy for their help in pastoring and their support to my family. Thanks to the Parish Council members. And to outgoing parish council members Teresa Parr and David Oxley who has been our chairman for 10 years and has been a key part of St. Ignatius and his contributions: parish bulletin, hymn sheets, administrative as well as spiritual input.

Thanks to choir and chanters for their commitment, especially Shelia and Brandon. Shelia has been choir director for 11 years and is now stepping down. Olivia Baca is our new choir director. Shelia has spent many hours preparing music, conducting rehearsals, and encouraging youth participation.

Thank you to our ushers under the direction of Nathan Wright and Pat Marlin; Joan Kirkpatrick and the Sacred Cleaning team; church school director, Shellie Sowell; the catechists. Dn. Mark and Sh. Margie for the prosphora ministry. Angela Santana our outgoing AW president, succeeded by Kjirsten Branscomb. Angela will be working with David Phipps in the Prison Ministry. Eric Beard has kept a strong and vibrant men's

ministry. The McGinty's do a fabulous job with the bookstore. The church beautification team led by Cassie Hansen, do a fantastic job with flowers for all of our feasts. The Bereavement committee is helping people through the grieving process. Sh. Gail Hyatt and her team are welcoming all the new faces. Fr. Gabriel is ministering to St. Anna's. Christi Barr wears many hats, takes many items off my plate. We are looking forward to where Tyson will take the teens in the future. Thank you deeply for your love and I love you back.

VII. Mission Update – Fr. Gabriel Khoury

Since October 2024 I have been serving at St. Anna's. It's been great privilege to serve that community. The church is growing, 90 people for Sunday Liturgy, 19 inquirers and catechumens, and new people every week, some from Huntsville. Four new members were received on Holy Saturday. We installed a new chandelier and don't have to depend on incandescent lighting. Financially, St. Anna's is on a positive trajectory. Located near the downtown square in Columbia, there is a lot of growth in the area. St. Anna's also owns around five acres of land near Bear Creek Pike. The future is bright. Visit St. Anna at some time!

VIII. Old Business

a. 2025 Financial Report – Randy Elliott

Our goal is to have \$5,000 left over at the end of August, the parish council will then determine what to use it for or to move into reserve balances. 100% of our income is from donations.

We have a four-month operating reserve fund. PPRSM is a fund reserve for repairs/maintenance.

*Question: No balance sheet this year? *Answer: The \$1.4 are cash assets. No debt other than short term current liability. No long-term liability, no mortgage.

*Question: The new building fund, is it an option for the church?

*Answer: We haven't launched the capital campaign but are accruing funds, not spending yet, it is restricted, but will be available when we move into construction phase. We have drawings, renderings, cost estimates, @\$600,000 on the books. Expansion will cost more, and we will need to make gifts over and above our current giving when we initiate the capital campaign.

*Question: Where is listed the money that we donated to the St.

Constantine School? *Answer: That money will come out of the \$59,000 "leftover" funds, we will pull the \$20,000 out of that.

HIGHLIGHTS

Total actual income:

2025	2024
\$1,430,698	1,294,331

Total actual expenses:

2025	2024
\$1,371,569	1,255,509

Actual net operating income:

2025	2024
59,129	38,822

Actual net income:

2025	2024
118,679	81,285

IX. New Business

a. Election of one Parish Council member

Slate presented by nominating committee: Christian Thomas, 3-year term

2nd Michael Amick, motion passed

b. Parish Council appointments by pastor – Chelsea Beazley, 3-year term

c. Youth Protection Policy – Dn. Mark Naftel

We are blessed with many children, and they are our sacred duty to protect. The archdiocese has mandated a Youth Protection Policy. There will not be any changes to what we are doing but the policy states that workers need to be qualified by background checks and a training video. The policy sets a goal of responsible youth workers, such as safety on playground. Volunteer opportunities are open to all church members and teens. Supervision of courtyard is needed.

*Question: How does the background check work? *Answer: Dn. Mark Naftel and Christi Barr will be sending information.

*Question: Is there first aid training in our youth ministry? In past we have had CPR training. *Answer: CPR training needs to be held again. Also, we need simple first aid training. Dn. Mark and Sh. Margie have been through advanced trauma workshop.

d. Stewardship Update – Brandon Baca

We are in the Golden Age of St. Ignatius. Thank you to Fr. Gordon, Fr. Stephen, Fr. Philip. Orthodoxy is the faith that established the Universe.

We have many gifts and Orthodoxy is for the salvation of the world, not just ours. Challenge: continue to give time, talent, treasure.

*Question: What is the current status? *Answer: The Stewardship committee is on calendar year but giving units are up 10-15% and participation has increased. Positive trends, not sure if due to growth of parish or to Stewardship Committee. There is generally a surge in December. 45% of members have made a pledge and we encourage giving members to make a pledge. This gives us more clarity on the resources that we want to put in motion, not a contract, you intend as God provides. It gives us a road map to anticipate. Also Note: St. Ignatius tithes to the archdiocese.

*Question: will there be reminders concerning the pledges? *Answer: Yes, there will be reminders but we won't be asking "where's the rest of the money?" ;)

e. 2025-26 Budget – Randy Elliott

You are always welcome to call me or meet with me concerning our budget, our expenses. Note: You can donate a share of stock which will avoid capital gains. We don't pay fees; you don't pay fees to convert it to cash. Make a plan to give: add SIOC to your trust, a life insurance policy, investment account. Required minimal distribution can also be donated in part or whole to SIOC.

First focus is on expenses. Committees/organizations submit requests for stipends, which are submitted to Fr. Philip who approves them, then submits them to the parish at our annual meeting. Weve had an 11% increase in expenses. An 11% increase in income will serve our parish and our members.

*Question: our support of St. Anna's, \$24,000 a year. Is there a plan for that to extend further? *Answer: We do not officially have an end. As God provides. We are in conversation with Bp. Nicholas concerning this issue.

*Question: Where are the budgets for events, such as Harvest Festival, etc. *Answer: the Parish Life item includes the budget for all the events, rather than listing them all as separate line items

*Question: We actually pay more than \$24,000 annually to St. Anna's as we pay Fr. Gabriel's salary. *Answer: There is a continuing conversation with Bp. Nicholas about this.

*Question: Will the temple be expanded and will it affect the icons, such as removing them? *Answer: Currently we need to support St. Anna's and

other potential missions rather than expand. This has been directed by the bishop.

HIGHLIGHTS

Total income:

FY 2025	FY 2026
1,248,000	1,385,000

Total expenses:

FY 2025	FY 2026
1,243,000	1,380,000

X. Closing Prayer and Adjournment – Fr. Philip Begley