

Long Range Planning Session St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Morning Prayers - 3rd hour Prayers

GETTING SETTLED IN – Father Jerry shared a story about Christ knocking on the door (Rev. 3:23) and a reflection on church growth (lesson of the Chinese Bamboo Tree).

Those present: Father Jerry and Presv. Maria Markopoulos, Mr. and Mrs. Timmons, Mr. and Mrs. Mehas, Neal Zoumboukos, Bonnie, Debbie, Annie Agah.

SESSION ONE:

Father Jerry asked all in attendance to spend ten minutes answering questions around: Claiming our foundational strengths.... Expanding those strengths to more effectively serve God's purposes and adding to our community that which will help us serve God's purposes fully.

CLAIM

Worshipful...God Centered....

Spiritually strong

Dedicated servants

Welcoming and approachable.... feels like a family..

Loving and giving

Love and fear of God

Share individual talents

Strong leadership in priest and council

Forward thinking

Philanthropic

Good Stewards

Youthful element

Diversity and Unity

Supportive and Respectful of Priests

Sense of Humor

Peaceful

Invested in Community

Educational Activities...Bible Study groups

EXPAND ...to serve Gods purpose

More dedicated servants

Attend more services/offer more

More involvement in teaching/learning

Need more outreach

Engage youthful element ..young people/families

Pursue full tithing

Discover/Develop individual talents

Greater sense of belonging/responsibility

Each of us be an ambassador

Philanthropy

ADD...What is missing?

Consecrated church
Direct Service Ministry
Hands on involvement
Sense of urgency
More parishioners
Expanded youth activities
More fellowship
Deacon
Cemetery/Reliquary.Garden/Water System
Hospital outreach
Greater involvement of parish

SOME THINGS TO PONDER....

Why do we exist... Building a stronger Orthodox Church... to bring Orthodoxy to the Valley... to expand Christ's Ministry...
Is it complete? No..... Is it clear to everyone.... No
Challenging ...serious commitment....
Quality more important than quantity...Need dedication and skills
“We cannot do it without God, but God has chosen not to do it without us.
God has chosen us to do it....”

MISSION STATEMENT...ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Building a Stronger Orthodox Christian Community by:
 Spiritually growing together
 Sharing the Orthodox Faith through
 Fellowship, outreach and philanthropy
Worshiping in a traditional Byzantine church
Supported through Stewardship

Five Purposes of the Church: (According to Father Jerry)

WORSHIP-LITURGIA

Love the Lord your God...the church exists to worship God and worship in the highest expression of the love for God.

SERVICE-DIAKONIA

Love your neighbor as yourself...to minister to all kinds of needs...Jesus turned no one away

WITNESS-MARTYRIA

Go make disciples..Evangelism and Outreach

FELLOWSHIP – KOINONIA

Baptize them...as Christians we are called to belong not just to believe

FORMATION/EDUCATION-PAIDEIA

Teach them to obey...all that I have commanded you...discipleship... the process of helping people become Christ-like in thought, word and deed.

The product ordained for His Church to accomplish is changed lives, Christ-like-ness
Theosis... Leads to a changed life..

BRAINSTORM IDEAS....

CONSECRATED CHURCH... Pictures shared of examples of churches

Begin process of exploring C.C. possibilities... Picture of Orthodox

Churches... Cost/When... Bring back to community.... this is what we want....

Plot design... Ask them... Can we buy your plans?... Plan in place.... Work toward it....

CEMETARY near the church

Koinonia Center - Campus Ministry House

Home for dying Poor

Youth Group - Greek Folk Group - Goya

Week Day Vespers

Feast Day Liturgies in P.M.

A.M. or P.M. prayer service

Choir to learn the Tones

Community Garden - Greenhouse

Seminary for Amateurs Class – St. Stephens Course – Long Distance learning

Community Outreach at Hospital

Pursue getting a Deacon

Apartment/Retirement Center

School..K-12... begin with primary

Expand Bookstore

Picnic area

Organizing Volunteers at Soup Kitchens

Recycling of Laser Toners to support missions and evangelism

Shared church maintenance-increase participation in this

Developing talents of all church members

Adult Baptismal Font or better font water retainer

Play area..... Play EquipmentBall field....

Improvements... Platytera..... Pantokrator

Larger Hall ... Multipurpose room

More Activity Boards

More communication on needs of parishioners

Small groups ministry... young parents.... social groups together

More celebrations of Parishioners... i.e. Quarterly Name Day

Seminars ... Issue Specific... what would interest our parishioners

More programs to attract young families... community youth activities... Seminars on

specific topics that bring in others on topics of general interest. How to make parents
responsible to see they need the church and the faith... educate them, but what

beyond..... Create activities that the youth want..... and parents will come... i.e. All the
children are around the priest first thing in the morning... then the liturgy and children go

to Sunday school after communion... Brainstorm ideas..... share with

parish.... prioritize.... Work toward a project.... do you approve.... And then proceed

