

**St. Joseph Church**  
**Finance Council Meeting**  
**March 25, 2015 Minutes -- FINAL**

**Members Present:**

Tom Altenbach, Kathy Hansen, Linda Brown, Olga Avila Ruiz  
Fr. Jorge Roman

**Members Excused:**

Sergio Moreno, Mike Morse, Antonio Garcia

**Parishioner Present:** Warren Hatfield

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Vice Chair Tom Altenbach called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm after a quorum was present. Fr. Jorge led us in a printed prayer.

The Minutes of the 1-28-15 meeting were approved with minor corrections from Helen's email. However, parishioner Warren Hatfield was in attendance and asked to clarify some of the allegations about him that were included in the minutes. He stated that he does not live in the church garage, but rather resides at 435 Lakeview Blvd. He stated he is not a transient, as he has lived in Mammoth for over 19 years. He has used the garage for his marshall arts team training and had secured insurance for that purpose, but no longer does since Helen objected. He restrains his dog Molly in the garage when he is here working on the church, cleaning it, clearing the steps or doing maintenance. He now has a kennel to put the dog in so the staff can access the files without fear. He is a former US Army Ranger, has a degree in Clinical Psychology, is head coach of a marshall arts program in Mammoth, and has a security & cleaning service for 15 condo developments, as well as Wild Iris and Gimme Shelter. He stated he is also the head usher and provides security for St. Joseph, monitoring church occupancy at night. Currently there is a couple whose car broke down who are staying in the church overnight. The sacristy is locked, however, with the combination known only to a few others. Warren checks on the church daily to be sure everything is in order.

Fr. Jorge distributed a letter to Mr. Antonio Garcia appointing him as a Finance Council member. Unfortunately he had a migraine and could not attend tonight's meeting.

Financial Reports:

Tom Altenbach

Helen asked for Council recommendation as to whether we should renew a CD or transfer the money to our savings account. As we will need money for the Parish Center it was recommended we transfer the money to savings rather than risk incurring a possible penalty for early withdrawal.

Helen emailed the Council the Second Quarter Report for Parishioners; this should be posted in the bulletin. She also provided the February financial information, and a written report on the occupancy of the Lee Vining Rectory. Revenues are on target, even though offertory contributions are down 7% for English masses and 18% for Spanish mass. We are still in good shape because expenses are down. Profit & Loss statements

are also okay. The Capital Campaign is over target since we collected \$44K this year, but Tom was unsure how much over target it is. (donations to date: \$181,000)

The church ceiling was repaired at a cost of \$4,975. We received a handrail bid for \$3,236 and have accepted the bid (from David Stout at Mammoth Welding). We have paid the architect an additional \$4,400 on the parish center.

A tree expert will be inspecting the remaining trees next to the mobile home park in Lee Vining and making a recommendation as to whether the trees should remain or be replaced. Discussion ensued on the insurance claim for the damage to a mobile home from a tree during a recent severe windstorm, but details are not yet forthcoming to the Council, and Helen may already have resolved this confidential situation.

### **Old Business – Reports:**

Parish Center Plan/Building Committee Update Kathy Cage, Fr. Jorge  
Kathy sent a report last time. Kathy is out of town right now.

Review of Stockton Diocese data setting Fees on Church Use Tom Altenbach  
Tom provided some preliminary information from Stockton parishes: St. Joachim, Lockeford; St. Mary, Oakdale; St. Patrick, Angels Camp. Prices for weddings were \$300-400; for baptisms \$30-\$50; for funerals \$250-\$400; for Quinceneras \$350-\$400. Fr. Jorge expressed that he never charges for a funeral, and in fact, any contribution goes to the family. He felt specifying an amount for other services might limit the more generous person. The list was very sketchy, so additional information will be sought. Linda will try to get info from American Martyrs on weddings... We discussed whether it was wise to set a “fee” versus having a “suggested donation” so amounts will be deductible. Also a cleaning fee might be in order. These events put wear and tear on the church, so we should probably institute something... We will try to develop a letter with guidelines to give people when they inquire about using the church.

### **New Business:**

There is a problem with the rectory at Lee Vining. Until the lawsuit is resolved, the mobile home people are living there. (We do not have a lawyer, but the victim of the tree event does) People who stay there every year are being turned away now. It costs about \$1,500/month to heat it because the building is old and there is no central heat, and people who stay there are not paying for the utilities. Originally the plan with the LV rectory was to let religious stay there so we have extra priests during the summer (like Fr. Bill, who uses it when Fr. Jorge takes summer vacation).

We need to set a schedule for 2016 budget requests. A subcommittee needs to meet to review these items. Tom and Helen are part of the subcommittee; if the meeting is held between May 18-May 21, Linda can come up & attend.

Future Business Alert

Tom Altenbach

The budget for fiscal year 2015/16 needs to be approved in June as the new fiscal year begins July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Next meeting

Will be held tentatively Wednesday, June 10 at 6pm. Tom asked for a tentative commitment from members to assure a quorum.

Congress

7 or 8 kids from Lee Vining & June Lake attended Congress, and the report was great from everyone. All the money was donated, so there was no expense to the Parish.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Brown  
Secretary