

Annual General Assembly

7th June 2026, St John XXIII Parish

Minutes of the Meeting

The General Assembly for 2026 convened at 12:15 hrs., was chaired by Mr. Oscar Mbeche, President of the Parish Administrative Council (PAC). The meeting was attended by 43 parishioners/participants as indicated in Annex I (attached). The following officers of the Parish Administrative Council (PAC) were present:

Fr. Paul C. Friel-Parish Priest
Mr. Oscar Mbeche-President
Mr. Joselito Benitez-Vice President
Mr. Augustine Agyeman Duah-Treasurer
Ms. Angela Adjei-Fundraising
Ms. Sandra Simpson-Safeguarding
Mr. William McClain-Human Resources
Mr. Julien Senderos-Property Management
Ms. Olga Menang- Parish Pastoral Council.

The following officers were absent:

Mr. Erwin Policar-Independent Parish Auditor
Ms. Anna Berkeley-Religious Education Director

1. Opening Prayer (Fr. Paul Friel, Parish Priest)

Fr. Paul led the opening prayer, invoking God's blessing and guidance upon the proceedings of the General Assembly. Following the prayer, he warmly welcomed all participants and expressed his appreciation for their presence and participation.

2. Welcome Remarks and Communication (Oscar Mbeche-President)

Mr. Mbeche welcomed all participants to the General Assembly and thanked them for their presence and continued commitment to the life of St. John XXIII Parish.

He explained that St. John XXIII Parish operates under a Statute and Code, in accordance with Swiss legal requirements governing associations. In this context, the Parish Administrative Council (PAC) serves as the administrative arm of the Parish, with Mr. Mbeche serving as President and Mr. Benitez as Vice-President. He clarified that while the PAC oversees the administrative and legal responsibilities of the Parish, the Parish Priest remains the Curé (Pastor) of the Parish, providing spiritual leadership and pastoral guidance to the community.

Mr. Mbeche emphasized that the Parish's structure is consistent with that of Catholic parishes worldwide, with the distinction that Swiss law requires the Parish to demonstrate sound

administrative governance through a legally constituted body. The PAC therefore ensures compliance with statutory obligations, including the preparation, auditing, presentation, and filing of the Parish's financial accounts in accordance with Swiss legal provisions.

The President informed the Assembly that, in accordance with the Parish Statutes, members elect the Parish Administrative Council at each General Assembly. He noted that he had served as a member of the PAC for nineteen years, including his tenure as President, and announced that he will be stepping down from the role of President of the PAC. He expressed his gratitude to parishioners for their trust, support, and collaboration throughout his years of service.

Reflecting on the Parish's journey, Mr. Mbeche recalled that when the Parish relocated from Grand-Sacconnex, it had taken out a loan of CHF 4 million from the ECR, in addition to a second loan, to support the establishment of the Parish in its current location. He was pleased to inform members that both loans had now been fully repaid, thanks to the generosity, commitment, and sacrifices of parishioners over the years. He extended his sincere appreciation to all members for their contributions towards this significant achievement.

He further acknowledged that the Parish had continued to flourish through the active participation and support of its members. At the same time, he encouraged parishioners to continue reaching out to others and invite more people to become involved in the life of the Church, so that the Parish community may continue to grow in faith and vitality.

Mr. Mbeche then informed the Assembly that the number of participants present met the quorum requirements stipulated in the Parish Statutes, enabling the meeting to proceed. He noted that notice of the General Assembly had been communicated through the Parish website on 22 May, thereby satisfying the statutory requirement that members be informed at least 15 days in advance, excluding the day of the Assembly itself.

He also confirmed that the General Assembly was being held within the timeframe prescribed by the Statutes, namely no later than 30 June, following the previous General Assembly held on 24 June 2025. Having confirmed that all statutory requirements had been fulfilled, Mr. Mbeche formally declared the General Assembly duly constituted and open.

3. Approval of Provisional Agenda

Mr. Mbeche confirmed that the provisional agenda, together with the accounts and budget reports, had been made available on the Parish website on 22 May. He further noted that no proposed additions or amendments to the agenda had been received within the required seven working-day period.

The General Assembly unanimously approved the agenda as presented.

4. Approval of June 2024 General Assembly Minutes

The minutes of the General Assembly held on 24th June 2025 were approved by the Assembly without objections nor amendments. (*Minutes GA 2025 are posted on the parish website*)

5. Parish Finances 2025 and Auditor's Report (Mr. Augustine Agyeman-Duah -PAC Treasurer and Mr. Erwin Policar-Independent Auditor)

Mr. Agyeman-Duah, PAC Treasurer, presented the Parish Financial report for 2025. He reported that the Parish remains financially stable overall. Annual pledges increased during the year, as did income generated from the rental of parish facilities. However, weekly offertory collections declined by 18%. He noted that one contributing factor may be the current uncertainty affecting the United Nations and other international organizations, where many parishioners are employed.

Regarding expenditure, Mr. Agyeman-Duah stated that the Parish remains on track and within its financial objectives. The budget was increased by 5% to accommodate additional parish activities that required funding. As of 31 December 2025, the Parish had a cash balance of CHF 496,000, representing a 10% increase compared with the cash balance as of December 2024. He further reported that all outstanding loans had been repaid and that the Parish was debt-free.

Parishioners were encouraged to fulfil their financial pledges, as these remain the Parish's principal source of income. Mr. Agyeman-Duah affirmed that the Parish will continue to exercise prudent financial stewardship and ensure that expenditures remain within the approved budget during the coming year.

In the absence of the Independent Auditor, Mr. Erwin Policar, Mr. Agyeman Duah also presented the Auditor's Report for the financial year ending 31 December 2025. He reported that the Independent Auditor had issued an unqualified opinion, confirming that the Parish's financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position and activities of the Parish in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. He further noted that the recommendations arising from the audit are being addressed by the Parish Administrative Council, as outlined in the accompanying management letter.

Presentation of the budget:

The budget for 2027 for the parish is set at CHF 754,895

Parish Activity	Budget 2027	Budget 2026	Budget 2025
Parish Ministries and Programmes	59,600	60,600	46,403
Outreach Programmes	106,000	100,000	75,318
Facilities	184,459	184,459	163,131
Parish Administration	215,000	215,000	253,811
Growing in Faith Initiative	189,836	189,836	189,836
Total Functional Expenses	754,895	749,895	728,499

The General Assembly noted and approved the parish budget for 2027

In accordance with the regulations governing the Parish and the applicable provisions of Swiss law, the members of the PAC are required to be formally discharged from liability in

relation to the approved annual accounts. A resolution was therefore proposed to discharge the members of the PAC from any liability arising from the approved Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025. The General Assembly unanimously approved the resolution to discharge the members of the PAC from liability in relation to the approved Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2025.

6. PPC 2025 Report (Ms. Olga Menang PPC Head)

In her 2025 report, Ms. Menang affirmed that the PPC remained stable, with 12 active members demonstrating increased confidence, maturity, and effectiveness in fulfilling their consultative role and supporting the Parish Priest. Meetings were held consistently at least once every quarter.

A key focus during the year was strengthening PPC engagement and improving communication of pastoral activities within the parish. Feedback from Fr Paul regarding the PPC's contribution was positive and aligned with expectations.

Parish ministries continued to flourish, with over 30 ministries actively supporting spiritual growth and fellowship. Participation and interest among parishioners increased throughout the year.

Two significant ministry developments included:

- The successful launch of the Women's Brunch Fellowship in September 2025, meeting monthly on every 2nd Saturday to promote faith-sharing, spiritual growth, and fellowship among women of the parish.
- The reinstatement of the Young Catholic Ministry, which actively engages young people through adoration, Bible study, social activities, volunteering, and enhanced communication via WhatsApp and Instagram.

Several liturgical and spiritual events strengthened parish life, including:

- The annual Interreligious Service
- The November Choir Concert, which was well attended and successful both spiritually and financially
- A choir retreat and rehearsal day focused on prayer, reflection, and vocal development
- An Ignatian Day of Prayer held during Advent preparation.

Fundraising events remained highly successful and fostered parish fellowship. The Barrio Fiesta and International Street Food Festival continued to attract strong participation. Appreciation was extended to parish staff and volunteers for their dedication.

The Advent Dinner was successfully reinstated after the COVID-19 pause. The event, which included a choir performance and shared meal, was well attended and warmly received by the parish community.

The Volunteer Appreciation Event was reintroduced under the theme "*Service.*" A total of 120 participants attended the half-day gathering, which encouraged reflection, unity, and

sharing. Fr Carlo del Rosario's presentation on Servant Leadership was particularly appreciated.

The Welcome Weekend was held in October and continued to serve as an important opportunity to welcome and integrate new parishioners into the life of the parish.

Overall, Ms. Menang reaffirmed the PPC's commitment to working closely with the Parish Priest to build a strong, vibrant, and faith-filled parish community.

7. Report 2025 from Director of Religious Education (Ms. Anna Berkeley)

In the absence of Ms. Berkeley, Fr. Paul provided an update to the Parish Religious Education Programme. A total of 281 students participated in the Parish Religious Education programme during the 2025-2026 academic year. The Parish benefited from the dedication of 42 Catechetical volunteers including 6 teenage assistants, whose commitment greatly enriched the programme.

23 students received the Sacrament of Confirmation on 9th May, in a ceremony celebrated by Archbishop Ettore Balestrero, Papal Nuncio to the United Nations. 48 children received their First Holy Communion on 24 May. 49 children celebrated their First Reconciliation on 2 May.

Overall, the Religious Education programme was a success, supported by the commitment of catechists, volunteers, coordinators, parents, and parish staff in nurturing the faith formation of the Parish's children and young people.

8. Vicariate Liaison 2025 Report. ECR contribution/ Quêtes

Fr. Paul reported on matters relating to the Vicariate Liaison role and the ECR contributions. He informed the General Assembly that Ms. Roney stepped down from the position in February and expressed his sincere appreciation for her dedication and service to the Parish.

Fr. Paul explained that the Vicariate Liaison position had originally been established to facilitate communication between the Parish and the Diocese during the period when the Parish had significant outstanding loans. The liaison served as an intermediary, providing updates on the Parish's financial situation and progress in repaying the loan. As the Parish has now fully repaid the loan, the role is no longer considered as critical as it had been previously. He noted that any future matters arising from the Vicariate would be handled by Mr. William McClain, Human Resources.

Fr. Paul also provided clarification regarding the second collection taken during Mass. He explained the parish does not own property or other income-generating assets and therefore relies heavily on the financial contributions of parishioners. He noted that operating solely on the regular offertory collection would result in a budget deficit. He explained that although the loan has been fully repaid, funds were also borrowed from assets held in the bank. The second collection will therefore continue until these assets have been replenished to their previous levels.

9. Fundraising 2025 Report (Ms. Angela Adjei)

Ms. Adjei reiterated that the Parish primarily relies on internal fundraising efforts. She noted that, in light of the uncertainty affecting international organizations, many parishioners have experienced financial challenges. Fr. Paul and the PAC have taken these circumstances into careful consideration.

Consequently, the Parish has not increased the number of fundraising activities during the year. In addition, the annual pledges campaign has been deferred and will be launched after the summer period.

Ms. Adjei encouraged parishioners to share any ideas or suggestions that could support future fundraising initiatives and contribute to the financial sustainability of the parish.

10. PAC Elections

The General Assembly unanimously elected Mr. Augustine Agyeman Duah as the President of the Parish Administrative Council

Mr. Erwin Policar was unanimously elected as Treasurer of Parish Administrative Council

The position for Auditor remains vacant

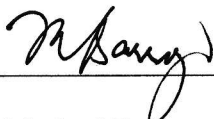
11. Any Other Business

Sister Franca Edet, DC, expressed her sincere gratitude to Fr. Paul, the African Choir, and the entire St. John XXIII Parish community for their support and generosity in helping to host the homelessness programme held on the parish premises in November 2025.

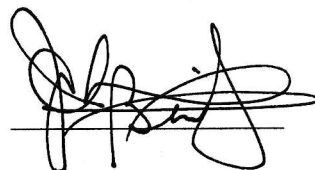
12. Conclusion and Closing

Fr. Paul in his closing remarks thanked all parishioners for attending the meeting and for their continued commitment to the life of the Parish. He acknowledged that these are challenging times, particularly with many people leaving Geneva and the significant changes affecting the parish community. However, he encouraged everyone to remain united as a community of faith, nourished by Jesus Christ, and to continue moving forward with hope and trust in God's guidance.

Fr. Paul concluded the meeting with a prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 13:12 hrs.



Marigel Barrozo
GA Secretary



Joselito Benitez
PAC Vice President

Annex 1

General Assembly
7th June 2026, St John XXIII Parish
Attendance

1. Joselito Benitez
2. Maribel Barrozo
3. Sandra Simpson
4. Elias Mejorada
5. William McClain
6. Beatrice Kakimansle
7. Asimwe Simon Peter
8. Augustine Agyeman-Duah
9. Charles-Martin Jjuuko
10. Lega Martin
11. Sr Franca Edet. DC
12. Maribel Mapanao
13. Jacob Oloo
14. Annette Ebbinghaus
15. Dan Ebbinghaus
16. Edwin Lottin
17. Angela Yankson
18. Ronny Schwerzmann
19. Fiona Prosper
20. Sally Naswa
21. Veronica Achampon
22. Julien Senderos
23. Olga Menang
24. Mary Challo
25. Elizabeth Azi
26. James Ssekitooleko
27. Stephen Mensah
28. Beatrice Ochieng
29. Prisca Chulley
30. Albert Yankson
31. Patricia Jjuuko
32. Josephine Agyeman-Duah
33. Julie Whitford
34. Hostencia Esua
35. Oscar Mbeche
36. Deus Mubangizi

37. Baron Cinis
38. Tanda Emmanuel
39. Christine Apio
40. Evoene Raphael
41. Oloo Nelson
42. Bikay Hamuli
43. Rose Yonga