



HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

7000 Winton Road, Cincinnati, OH 45224 • Tel.: (513) 591-0030 • Fax: (513) 591-0043
Web: www.holytrinity.oh.goarch.org • Email: gopriest@gmail.com

General Assembly Minutes October 14, 2012

ATTENDANCE

Clergy: Fr. William Cassis, Fr. Paul Truebenbach.

Parishioners: 56 voting parishioners were in attendance.

MEETING

Call to order: Chris Chryssovergis called the Assembly to order at 12:12 pm.

Opening prayer: The opening prayer was given by Fr. Bill.

Election of Chair: Lew Assaley was nominated to chair the Assembly and approved unanimously.

Prior Minutes: Reading of the minutes of the February 26, 2012, General Assembly was suspended. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Nominations: Lew Assaley called for nominations to be made for the Audit Committee, Election Committee, Endowment Committee and Parish Council.

- **Audit Committee:** the nominations of Jim Gelis, Jessica Mavridoglou and Harry Papathanis were approved.
- **Election Committee:** the nominations of Lew Assaley, Sophie Guethlein, Loy Jonson, Janice Kellaris, Eleni Liston and George Mavirdoglou were approved.
- **Endowment Committee:** the nominations of Steve Papakirk, Evan Andrews, Dean Francis and Bill Tscalis were approved.
- **Parish Council:** The nominations of Nick L. Sarakatsannis, Maria Kontopos, Peter Rodish, Peter Aamodt, Alex Geromes, Andy Stefanopoulos and John Sakelos were approved.

Audit report: Peter Aamodt read the audit report to the Assembly, which was accepted provisionally in the absence of any Audit Committee member to respond to questions.

Clergy remarks:

- Fr. Bill:
 - December 1st marks the close of Fr. Paul's first year with the Parish. All are certain that he has done a remarkable job so far. Congratulations on the birth of his son Paul Nektarios.
 - 2013 will be a very busy year. The Parish will host the AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope district convention, the Mid-Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians (MEFGOX) and the Metropolis of Detroit Clergy-Laity Assembly. These events are all indicative of the example the Parish sets in the Metropolis and the Archdiocese.
 - Next year's stewardship campaign has commenced. Please give prayerful and thoughtful consideration to annual giving.
 - The 2013 budget finally includes funding for the Lay assistant position previously approved by the Assembly. Both the job description and the salary scale have been approved by His Eminence Metropolitan NICHOLAS.
 - One item for discussion under Old Business is the Parish Hall renovation. This is an item that was raised by the previous Assembly. A decision will be needed to choose between banquet center or gymnasium options. Based on that decision, a committee will need to be formed to move forward.
- Fr. Paul:
 - He and Presvytera give thanks for the Parish's support after the birth of their son. There is no better community for them.
 - Update on ministries:
 - Monthly JOY/Hope meeting times have been changed to first Friday evenings, leading to a tripling of attendance.
 - GOYA has transitioned well to new leadership. Please encourage young people to become active.
 - The reading group continues to meet on Monday evenings. In response to requests to concentrate on scripture, the next book to be discussed is a commentary on Romans.
 - The Bookstore was reorganized in time for Panegyri earlier in the year with the help of Beth Uhimchuk and is constantly improving. Requests are coming in to carry new books, which will be announced periodically.

Stewardship report:

- Andy Stefanopoulos reviewed the latest stewardship figures for the current year. On the positive side, stewardship totals are slowly rising every year, as is the average pledge amount. However, on the negative side there is a shift from pledged to non-pledged stewardship. It becomes harder to balance the Parish's cash flow needs when there is not a dependable stewardship income cycle. Next year's proposed budget includes a \$26,000 stewardship revenue increase, as it is important to increase annual contributions rather than cut back.
- Lew Assaley asked what actions will be taken this year beyond mailing – There will be a telephone campaign later in the fall.
- The Stewardship report was unanimously accepted.

Panegyri report: Frank Cook briefly reported that the next year's festival will be the same as last year's but better.

Old Business:

- Parish Hall renovation: Discussion was had regarding renovation, as the Assembly was told that the gym floor cannot continue to be used as a basketball court.
 - Fr. Bill believes the formulation of the renovation plan should be led by the Council for submission to the next Assembly. Chris Chryssovergis moved, Andy Stefanopoulos seconding, that the renovation issue be referred to the Council, considering the two recommendations: should the large hall continue to serve as a multi-purpose room (useable as both a gymnasium and banquet center), or should the facility be converted to a banquet center and used solely in that capacity?
 - Nick Parthenakis asked which option would generate more revenue. Eleni Zafares observed that the money presently lost on banquets outweighs the revenue generated from games in the gym, but Chris Jonson has not completed an analysis of these activities. Philanthy Nichols asked about the experience of other parishes with banquet facilities. Lew Assaley suggested that related costs and benefits should be included in a report. Fr. Bill asserted that revenue will increase with either renovation option as the Parish Hall no longer sees any wedding receptions. While a banquet hall conversion will require much work, even a renovated gym will provide a sharper-looking rental venue. Both options under consideration should include a new usage plan.
 - Janice Kellaris inquired as to how quickly either type of project might be completed. Lew reminded all that the Phase IV expansion took three years. Sam Boulmetis indicated that funding is the key – more will be spent in a banquet hall conversion but either renovation can be accomplished.
 - Philanthy asked if a special Assembly could be held when the recommendations are ready. She moved to amend the original motion to expedite the Council's report back earlier so that a special Assembly could be held by next February 1st. The amendment was accepted by the original proposers.
 - George Haralamos expressed hope that the Hall could be used more often – the Council should look into this. Marie Tscalis suggested an analysis of the gym rental be done. Lew suggested that the use analysis be prospective in terms of how each option will generate revenue.
 - Milan Snider asked how this project will be funded. Chris Chryssovergis suggested that either a new loan could be taken out or donors could be found. Fr. Bill underscored the importance that the Parish have faith in finding project funding, as has been the case with past projects.
 - The amended motion on the floor was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's report:

- Nick Georgiton presented a year-to-date comparison of budget to actuals. In summary, the Parish's net cash-flow position is only \$5,000 below budget, which is a good position to be in this time of year.
- The Treasurer's report was unanimously accepted.

2013 Budget:

- Nick Georgiton presented the proposed 2013 Parish budget. He briefly described the process for its preparation: the Council Budget Committee reviews current-year revenues and expenses as well as trends and other factors that should be considered for next year. The Council as a whole then reviews, approves and recommends the budget to the Assembly. Everything in the proposed budget closely matches the current-year budget except for the inclusion of the Parish Assistant position: \$19,600 in total compensation has been included in the 2013 budget to fund a hire later in the year, while \$47,000 will be required to fund a full year's compensation in 2014.
- Nick Georgiton moved, Tom Zafares seconding, approval of the budget as submitted in order to open discussion. Questions:
 - Parish Assistant: Silvia Suhar asked which functions of the Parish Assistant are not already covered by present expenditures. Nick Georgiton observed that there is general consensus that present personnel expenses represent money well spent where efficiencies are concerned. [Lew Assaley read the position's complete job description to the Assembly.] Fr. Bill added that the clergy do much but can't always be there to meet all demands. It will be helpful to have someone available with professional, theological training to assist. The budgeted compensation package for the position includes some savings as Archdiocesan benefits are not required. Milan Snider asked whether the budgeted amount included a car – no, it doesn't presently, but the Council could consider that.
 - Position descriptions: Jim Raptis asked as to the existence of written job descriptions for other Parish positions, review by the Council and performance evaluation of incumbents – Chris Chrysovergis assured him that formal job descriptions are prepared by the Human Resources Committee. Annual reviews are given by Fr. Bill, the results of which are used in the consideration of merit increases.
 - Car Raffle: Tom Zafares moved, Sam Boulmetis seconding, that the car raffle be scrapped. Per Tom, the raffle is 39 years old, is now in decline, and can be supplemented by increasing stewardship by another approximately 10%. Sam expressed concern that our facility was being overloaded by the event, including municipal resources. Andy Stefanopoulos replied that the \$36,000 in net revenue most recently generated should not be taken lightly, nor should the hard work of those involved. George Haralamos observed that the amount of money being discussed could be used to pay for the new Parish Assistant position. Discussion was also had as to the secular nature of the event and confirmation received that expenses, not revenues, formed the basis for the Parish's annual Archdiocesan assessment. The motion failed, receiving only 18 votes in favor.
 - Stewardship: Andy Stefanopoulos moved, Nick Parthenakis seconding, that budgeted stewardship revenue be raised by \$36,000 to a total of \$468,000. This motion was approved unanimously.
- The budget as amended was approved unanimously.

President's remarks: Chris Chryssovergis reminded all that November 4th has been designated as Outreach Sunday. This is a great way to ask acquaintances and others new to Orthodoxy to visit the Parish. He also extended his appreciation for support and suggestions on ways to improve the Parish, which the Council worked on as a team. Lew Assaley extended his thanks to Chris and the other non-returning Council members.

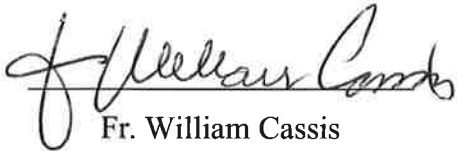
Other: Fr. Bill encouraged all to vote in the upcoming civic elections.

ADJOURNMENT

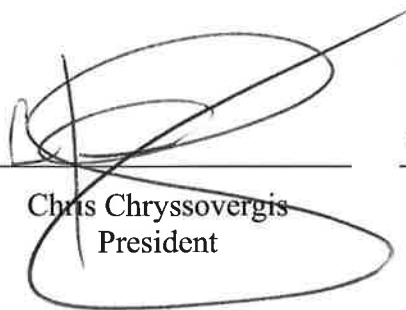
Call to adjourn: the motion to adjourn was made at 1:31 pm.

Closing prayer: Fr. Paul offered the closing prayer.

Approved as written,



Fr. William Cassis
Proistamenos



Chris Chryssovergis
President



Peter Aamodt
Secretary