



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Fall General Assembly Minutes October 16, 2016

MEETING

Attendance: 62 parishioners

Call to order: Chris Chryssovergis called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Opening prayer by Fr. Bill

Election of chairperson: Chris Chryssovergis nominated Nick J. Sarakatsannis for Chairperson of the meeting. Minutes from Spring General Assembly March, 6th 2016 were moved to be accepted as posted by Lew Assaley, seconded by John Condorodis.

Nominations of Audit Committee: Patricia Neuendorf (accepted), Nick J. Sarakatsannis (accepted), Milan Snyder (accepted), Andy Stefanopoulos (accepted), John Condorodis moved that the nominations be closed, seconded by Ike Misali.

Appointment of the Election Committee: Carol Stefanopoulos (accepted), Lew Assaley (accepted), Loy Jonson (accepted by letter), Marie Tsacalis (accepted) and John Condorodis (accepted). Milan Snyder moved for the nominations to be closed, seconded by Nick Parthenakis.

Endowment Committee: Continuing members Peter Aamodt and Andrew Stefanopoulos. Nominees for open position, Charles Stephan (accepted by letter), Bill Tsacalis (accepted). John Condorodis moved for the nominations to be closed, seconded by Andy Stefanopoulos.

Parish Council Nominations: Nektarios Papasavvas, Bill Kanelopoulos, Dimitri Makrozahopoulos, Andy Stefanopoulos, Karen Aamodt, Jessica Mavridoglou, Buzzy Gaz (accepted by letter), Christine Masella (declined), Ike Misali (accepted). Nick Parthenakis moved to close nominations, seconded by Lew Assaley.

Audit Committee Report: Nick J. Sarakatsannis read a letter submitted by the Audit Committee. No issues were found in the 2016 financial audit.

President Comments: Chris Chryssovergis gave comments due to Nick L. Sarakatsannis absence on this date. He thanked everyone in the Parish for what they do. It has been a tremendous year. We had such a great

Panegyri and met our operating margin target, despite the oppressive heat, because of the help of all our volunteers. Please continue to support the Building Renovation Fund and thank you for your donations. We currently have \$250,000 raised and need \$300,000 before Christmas. Name Tag Day: He received good feedback from many. It allows us to be open with others. Stewardship is at a pace to exceed our budgeted \$480,000 and will completely cover the elimination of the Car Raffle, freeing us for more ministry work and time with both our Church, community and personal families. The Agape Luncheon was a success, thank you Karen Aamodt for organizing, the Parish Council for assisting and Montgomery Inn for providing the food for us at a reasonable price. The Long-Range Planning Committee's Parish Survey provided great feedback from all the parishioners, thank you for participating. There was a lot to take away: spiritual growth, actual growth, more ministries attention (food pantry and our surrounding community), focus on newcomers and folks possibly forgotten, more fun, inexpensive activities involving our entire Parish, possibly multiple sermons with thought around Greek/English split. We celebrated Fr. Bill's 40th anniversary to the Priesthood. His retirement is up coming on Christmas Day with a Parish celebration in three weeks on November 5th. The name of our new Proistamenos was announced. Father Mark Emroll, currently serving The Annunciation Church in Dayton, OH, will begin serving our community on January 1st. The Parish Council played an integral role in the selection process. Father Chris Metropulos came to Cincinnati to speak on behalf of Hellenic College/Holy Cross. The fundraiser raised over \$30,000 donated to the college, which shows our community support to HC/HC.

Priest Comments:

Fr. Bill-Thanked everyone for attending the General Assembly meeting. He talked about Fr. Mark's transition to our Parish, embrace him, love him, and pray for him. He asked us to pray for his new ministry and to welcome him with a spirit of cooperation. This will help us to continue to grow and prosper. He thanked everyone for embracing him these 25 years.

Fr. William-Thanked the Parish for everything they do. He was excited for the number of children that attended summer camp this year. It is a chance for our children to have an intense connection to Christ and other children from other Parishes. Vacation Bible school had a great turn-out this year as well. HOPE/JOY has a Christmas movie night coming up and we had fun at our fall event at Neiderman Farm.

Treasurer's report: Justin Bates gave the report. Our Ordinary Revenues have surpassed budget by \$9,289 (over 2%). This is wonderful considering that we increased our stewardship budget by \$52,000. At this point it looks like we could meet our goal. Please continue your generous support. Fundraising revenue is short by \$16,782 (4%). This due mostly to the Panegyri gross revenue being \$15,000 below budget. However, the Panegyri expenses were \$24,200 below budget. The net profit was \$242,103, which is \$9,103 better than our budgeted amount. Our overall cash in-flows are \$7,493 (1%) below our budgeted expenses. So far this year all of our expenses have fallen below budget. Building Repair & Maintenance has the largest gap of \$42,771 below budget. This is due mostly to the fact that we have not had any major repairs so far this year. We are having an \$8,000 repair on the copper roof over the Sanctuary performed this month. Our overall expenses are \$78,279 (10%) under budget through September. The roof should hopefully be fixed soon we have to wait for heavy rain to pass. Line of Credit-We carried \$32,000 over from 2015 and borrowed an additional \$5,000. The line of credit was paid off with the proceeds from the Panegyri. In conclusion, our Parish has really stepped up and replaced the revenue removed from the budget with the elimination of the Car Raffle. This is another important step towards becoming a 100% stewardship funded Parish.

Stewardship Report: Peter Rodish gave the report. It stated it has been a good year. Parishioner's commitment and pledges are up and funds are up by \$51,000 compared to last year. We are supporting taking the car raffle out of the budget. Stewardship is about ministry, we have to take care of our house, but anything we can do beyond that goes toward ministering to the faithful and the local community. He thanked the parish for allowing him to serve on Parish Council for his two terms.

Panegyri report: Eugene Nicholas gave the report. We beat our budgeted profit and this was the first time our \$40,000 goal for sponsorship was achieved. The prices on items used for the festival were lower and our after sales helped increased our profit as well. This was the fourth most profitable festival in our history. The volunteer base is shrinking; we typically have a large group of young kids helping. The pastry booth requires more help. The festival requires 400 volunteers at all times. Thank you volunteers for all your help!

Endowment Fund Report: Peter Aamodt gave the report. The balance is over 1 million, and still growing. The Endowment Fund is intended for long-term Parish use, and is a great way to secure the future of the Parish by donations and by estate planning. The fund can be used for things ranging from capital improvements to ministry and more. The committee has a diverse investment portfolio, and the committee does manage investments with advice from Morgan Stanley; our fees are at or below 1%.

1:15 break for lunch, resumption of order 1:25

Parish vision: Chris Chryssovergis gave the presentation on the need to seek a vision for the Parish and how we can not only preserve, but also grow the heritage of faith and orthodox practice that our parents and grandparents have given to us. The Parish Council is proposing that we will establish a committee to generate a strategic plan and actionable objectives for fulfilling our vision of where we want to be as a Parish. We have many opportunities to help others, how much goodness do we want to give and how do we want to be remembered.

Old Business:

Building renovation: Jim Gelis gave the report. The construction is about 85% complete, ceilings are painted, light fixtures are installed, wood floor is under way; November 2nd is the target date, reiterated by the contractor, and November 5 will be Fr. Bill's retirement dinner. The total cost to date is \$638,000, we budgeted \$645,000. The pledges to date are now \$326,935, which together with the mortgage authorization will fully fund the project; pledges so far are from 155 donors, we have a lot of room for more to join. Jim thanked a number of people who contributed in planning and executing this project, but most of all he thanked the donors who have made this possible, and he thanked God that He has enabled us to accomplish this, for by Him all things are possible. We anticipate closing on the mortgage by the end of November. Jim hopes to have the mortgage paid off within 2 years, and thinks that it is well within the ability of this Parish to accomplish this.

New Business:

2017 Operating Budget: Lew Assaley moved to accept the budget as presented, John Condorodis seconded. Discussion: real estate tax is an assessment by Hamilton County for our maintenance of the drainage system; proposal that we add a budget line item for the Christmas concert, second proposal that it be provisionally included under miscellaneous; Vera moved to amend the motion to remove the entry for the Associate Priest until the renovation is paid off, Cindy Nicholas seconded; Eleni Zaferes moved to end discussion, Andy Stefanopoulos seconded, discussion ended; amendment rejected; Lew Assaley moved to amend the budget to increase music expense from \$15,600 to \$20,000 and offset by reducing miscellaneous expenses, Bill Tsacalis seconded, amendment passed, budget as amended passed

Organization reports:

No organizations wished to report

ADJOURNMENT

Call to adjourn: Lew Assaley moved to adjourn at 2:30 p.m.

Closing prayer: Fr. William offered the closing prayer.

Approved as written,



Fr. Mark Emroll
Proistamenos



Nick L. Sarakatsannis
President



Christine Masella
Recording Secretary