



# 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: goc7000@gmail.com

## Fall 2017 General Assembly Meeting Minutes October 15, 2017

### ATTENDANCE

**Clergy:** Fr. Mark Emroll

**Pastoral Assistant:** Mr. Nick Tzetzis

**Parish Council Members present:** Nick L. Sarakatsannis (Presiding), Matthew Neuendorf (Recording), Karen Aamodt, Justin Bates, Chris Chrysovergis, Buzzy Gaz, David Greene, Bill Kanelopoulos, Stacey Loukoumidis, Dimitrios Makrozahopoulos, Nektarios Papasavvas.

**Parish Council Members absent:** George Haralamos, Jessica Mavridoglou

**Parish Staff:** Eugene Nicholas, Craig Sansone

**Parishioners:** 63 voting members present, more than necessary for a quorum

### MEETING

**Call to order:** Nick L. Sarakatsannis called the meeting to order at 12:12 PM.

**Opening Prayer:** Father Mark led the opening prayer.

**Election of Chairperson:** George Karampas nominated Nick J. Sarakatsannis to serve as chairman. Andy Stefanopoulos seconded. Nick accepted. Nominations closed, and Nick was elected.

### **Minutes of October 19, 2014 Fall General Assembly Meeting:**

- The minutes of the prior General Assembly were posted publicly. Lewis Parsenios moved to suspend the rules, dispense with the reading of the minutes, and accept the minutes as posted on the website and bulletin board. Irish Condorodis seconded. The motion passed.

### Reports:

#### **President's Report:**

- Nick L. Sarakatsannis will be leaving Parish Council with his term ending December 31. He wishes to thank those parishioners who helped him out during his tenure. A lot has happened in the past year. We congratulated Fr. Bill on 40 years in the priesthood and wished him well on his retirement. We completed our building renovation project, but continue to fund the loan. Of our 890 families in our Parish, only 150 of those have contributed to the project. We were blessed to receive Fr. Mark as our Proistamenos with Presvytera Ginny. We celebrated Fr. Mark's 25<sup>th</sup> year

in the priesthood. Thanks to everyone for supporting him and to the other members of the Parish Council.

### **Clergy Reports:**

- **Fr Mark:**

- Since our last General Assembly, Fr. Mark has been able to integrate more fully into our Parish family. We have been very busy since then, celebrating our first Lent and Pascha together, as well as our first Panegyri. Thanks to everyone who volunteered their assistance, from chair people to bakers and cooks, to cleaners, to volunteers in the booths.
- This year we managed 50-60 volunteers, GOYAns and other youth with their parents, for the cupping of tzatziki cups. This cut a 6 hour job into one and a half hours.
- We said goodbye to Fr. William and Presvytera Elizabeth and have welcomed Mr. Nick and his wife, Ivey. His ordination will be “soon.”
- Our college ministry continues to expand and grow, including an event in March coordinated by Presvytera Ginny with 30 or so students in attendance. We had another in August and will have a third next Sunday.
- The Nativity Fast approaches.
- Thanks to the entire parish for their love and prayers.

- **Mr. Nick:**

- Thanks to the community and to Fr. Mark for the welcome to Mr. Nick and Ivey.
- Nick has been learning about just what our youth groups and our parish community does, and today is 2 months since his arrival here. He anticipated the size but is impressed by the quality of our youth participation.

### **Treasurer’s Report:**

- We have missed our budgeted income, largely due to a shortfall in Stewardship, but this is in part because last year was a record one and so we increased our budgeted amount.
- Fundraising income has been essentially within budget.
- Expenses have been below budget, in part because Eugene has controlled expenses generally and Panegyri expenses specifically, but largely because we budgeted for an associate priest in addition to an assistant.
- We have not met our Stewardship expectations but we have kept our expenses very well controlled.
- Panegyri went well, but it could easily have gone very badly, so we still need to work to become a fully Stewardship-funded parish.

### **Audit Committee report:**

- This year’s committee of Patricia Neuendorf, Nick J. Sarakatsannis, Milan Snyder, and Andy Stefanopoulos met and determined after review that there was nothing to indicate any inaccuracies in balance sheets.
- Bill Tsacalis moved to accept the report. Irish Condorodis seconded. Lewis Parsenios asked if we have had a recent appraisal, Eugene answered that we had a current building appraisal on file from 2016. The motion passed.

### **Endowment Committee Report:**

- The fund's value continues to rise. As of the report we received for the month ending September 30, the fund stands at \$1,212,000. As of June 30, 2017, we were at approximately \$1,017,000, which allows us to draw as much as 4% of the average value for the preceding three years, around \$43,019, for things such as capital expenses, parish ministries, and extraordinary items only.
- The committee consists of Peter Aamodt, Andy Stefanopoulos, Charles Stephan, and Bill Tsacalis, as well as ex officio Nick Sarakatsannis and Jessica Mavridoglou as well as Fr. Mark.
- They meet quarterly to review allocations and investment strategies. We should continue to grow the fund.
- Loy Johnson moved to accept the report. Patricia Neuendorf seconded. The motion passed.

### **Panegyri Report:**

- We beat our budgeted number by \$8,100, in part due to an excellent sponsorship drive. We exceeded our overall revenue budget. We sold out of almost everything, and God blessed us with two perfect days.
- Thanks to our leadership team and all our volunteers who stepped up on Friday despite the weather and arrived early on Saturday to open things up again.
- If we are to continue this success then we need to grow our volunteer base – helping out is part of our Stewardship, offering time and talent.

### **Strategic Planning report:**

- Over the last several General Assemblies we decided that we needed to be clear on our vision and strategy. As a result we formed this committee not just of the Parish Council but of the entire parish as a whole. We are always looking for more input from more people.
- Everything begins with our mission (why we are here), which is listed in our Sunday Voice. From that we derive our vision (where we are going), also listed in the Voice.
- The three core pillars of our vision involve building engagement, promoting the Word of God in our families and in our community, and outreach.
- Strategy (how we get to where we want to be) is the plan of action to implement our vision in practical terms, giving us concrete things that we can do to continue to make progress.
- In order to do any of this, we need help. We need people to join us in executing our strategy if we are going to move toward our vision. We also need to coordinate the efforts of each of our parish organizations.

### **Stewardship report:**

- We set an aggressive goal last year. In principle we should be fully funded through Stewardship so that other income can be used for outreach to our community, but as of right now we are lagging behind last year, by about \$25,000 in pledged commitments, by about 20 in households that have pledged, and by about \$20 per household that has given, though we are ahead in receipts per household.
- Our mailing for next year went out, including a slight rework of the trifold.
- We plan to hold a Stewardship Sunday, though it is not yet scheduled.
- Everyone here knows how important Stewardship is, but it is incumbent upon us to share that knowledge with our friends and family as well as everyone else in our community. A parish of this size should have no problem fully funding its operations, but the number of households that have

given is about half of our total number of families in this parish. We determine how many families we have by a number of means, but essentially the count includes any family with a connection to the parish.

### **Nominations:**

#### **Audit Committee:**

- Eugene nominated Nick J. Sarakatsannis. Nick J. Sarakatsannis nominated Patricia Neuendorf and Milan Snyder. Nektarios nominated Andy Stefanopoulos. Irish Condorodis moved to close nominations. Frieda Seremetis seconded. Lewis Parsenios moved to accept the nominations. Frieda Seremetis seconded. The motion passed.

#### **Election Committee:**

- Loy Jonson nominated Frida Seremetis. Buzzy Gaz nominated Peter Aamodt. Eugene nominated Kim Lambrinides, but Kim withdrew. Eleni Zaferes nominated Lew Assaley. Peter Zaferes nominated Loy Jonson. Peter Aamodt nominated Peter Rodish. Lewis Parsenios moved to accept the nominations. Irish Condorodis seconded. The motion passed.

#### **Endowment Committee:**

- There were two openings, a single 1 year term and a single 2 year term, starting January 1. Karen Aamodt nominated Jonathan Crawford for the 2 year term. Andy Stefanopoulos nominated Bill Tsacalis for the 1-year term. Irish Condorodis moved to close and accept the nominations. Janeen Condorodis. The motion passed.

#### **Parish Council:**

- Dimitri Makrozahopoulos nominated Sylvia Rombis. Bill Kanelopoulos nominated Andy Stefanopoulos. Peter Aamodt nominated Jim Raptis. Dimitri nominated Jay Williams. Eleni Zaferes moved to close the nominations. Buzzy seconded. The motion failed. Stacey Loukoumidis nominated Kristen Gaskins. Stacey nominated Kim Lambrinides. Loy Jonson moved to close nominations. Irish Condorodis seconded. The motion passed.

Mike Trivett moved for a 5 minute recess, but the motion failed.

### **Unfinished Business:**

#### **Adjacent Property:**

- Irish Condorodis inquired if discussion of the north side adjacent property still remained on our agenda. Everything with regard to that is currently on hold.

### **New Business:**

#### **Budget:**

The itinerary and budget were mailed out several weeks ago. The Parish Council approved it and sent it to this Assembly for final approval. It is similar to last year but with a few minor changes including a slightly reduced Stewardship amount and a new Religious Education category. Irish Condorodis moved to accept the budget as presented. Georgianne Gaz seconded. The motion passed.

**Organization Reports:**

**Choir:** Janice Kellaris said that the choir could use some new members.

**Adjournment**

**Call to adjourn:** Lewis Parsenios moved to adjourn.

**Closing prayer:** Fr. Mark led the closing prayer. The meeting ended at 2:03 PM.

Approved as written,

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Fr. Mark Emroll  
Proistamenos

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Nick L. Sarakatsannis  
President

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Matthew Neuendorf  
Secretary