



METROPOLIS  
OF DETROIT

# HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## Fall 2015 General Assembly Meeting Minutes October 11, 2015

### ATTENDANCE

**Clergy: Parish Council Members present:** Fr. Bill Cassis, Fr. William Redmon

**Parish Council Members present:** Karen Aamodt, Justin Bates, Jim Gelis, David Greene, Stacey Loukoumidis, Christine Masella, Jessica Mavridoglou, Matthew Neuendorf, Nick L. Sarakatsannis and Peter Rodish.

**Parish Council Members absent:** Michael Mavridoglou and Nektarios Pappasavvas.

**Parish Staff:** Eugene Nicholas

**Parishioners:** A quorum of 54 parishioners present was confirmed.

### MEETING

**Call to order:** Parish Council President Jim Gelis called the meeting to order at 12:07 PM.

**Opening Prayer:** Father Bill gave the opening prayer.

**Election of Chairperson:** Eugene Nicholas nominated Nick J. Sarakatsanis to serve as chairman. He 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. Lou 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. The motion passed.

#### **Audit Committee Nominations:**

- Patricia Neuendorf, Suzanne Pavlakis, Nick J. Sarakatsanis, and Milan Snider all accepted.

#### **Appointment of the Election Committee:**

- Lew Assaley, Irish Condorodis, Loy Jonson, Ron Nichols, and Carol Stefanopoulos were all appointed.

#### **Endowment Committee Nominations:**

- 2 positions need to be filled.
- Evan Andrews and Andy Stefanopoulos were nominated for the 2-year term, and Charles Stephan for the 1-year term.

- Andy won the vote for the 2-year term 28 to 15, and Charles was elected for the 1-year term.

#### **Parish Council Nominations:**

- Justin Bates, Chris Chrysosovergis, David Green, Stacey Loukoumidis, Matthew Neuendorf, Nick L. Sarakatsanis, and George Haralamos were all nominated.
- There were seven nominees for seven open slots.

#### **Reports:**

##### **Audit Committee Report:**

- Nick J. Sarakatsanis delivered the report. Tasos Ioannides suggested that the presentation of a slate of nominees for the committee by the Parish Council represented a conflict of interest. Lew Parsenios moved to approve the report, Frieda Seremetis seconded, and the motion passed.

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

- Jim Gelis exhorted the assembly to make an effort to fulfill the vision of the Church as a beacon of God's Light in the world.

##### **Clergy Reports:**

- **Fr. Bill:**
  - Father Bill had no report.
- **Fr. William:**
  - Father updated the assembly on youth ministries. JOY/HOPE is in much better shape than it has been, and now has a newsletter, The Whisper. GOYA is looking to get even more active in charity work and plans to begin issuing a newsletter of their own soon. College ministry is moving slowly due to limited interest outside of Miami University. VBS next year will be themed around the heroes of the Bible.

##### **Treasurer's Report:**

- Our ordinary income year-to-date is down by around 5% of the budgeted amount. Our Stewardship income is under budget year-to-date. Other income is higher, but fundraising income is down due to Panegyri having a bad day. Expenses are also under budget, including personnel, fundraising, etc., costs. We have worked hard to limit expenses, but we currently have negative cash flow outlook due to reliance on our line of credit for day-to-day operations and having already exhausted fundraising revenues. We currently have no balance on our line of credit, but that is only for the moment.
- Ike Misali stated that we need to inform our Parishioners about the financial and physical state of the Church and that they need to dig into their pockets to keep what we have.
- Lew Assaley moved to accept the report, Andy seconded, and the motion passed.

##### **Stewardship report:**

- There was no report due to exigent circumstances.

##### **Panegyri Report:**

- We had \$3,190 surplus over budget, despite lower revenues, mostly because of strictly limiting expenses.
- We need to stop relying on Panegyri for basic operational funding, since we cannot control the weather.
- Going forward, it will be handled similarly to how it was done this year: Eugene will chair, with assistance.

#### **Endowment Fund Report:**

- The Endowment closed at \$993,500.
- The Committee plans to suggest a charter amendment before the next General Assembly.

#### **Old Business:**

##### **Community Center Renovation:**

- The architect has brought design boards for everyone to look at.
- Construction documents should be ready in 2 weeks, with bidding to follow.
- Construction itself will hopefully begin in November, to finish before Easter.
- Renovations will include the gym (multi-purpose room), the low-ceiling area, and the Bishop's walk, with new doors connecting the walk to the MPR.

#### **New Business**

##### **2016 Operating Budget**

- Lew Assaley moved to accept the budget as presented, Peter Aamodt seconded.
- George Haralamos moved to add the Car Raffle with a budget of \$30,000, Bill Tsacalis seconded. After discussion, Charles Stephan called the question. The motion failed.
- Tasos Ioannides moved to amend the budget to include a 10% tithe for community outreach, Anna Ioannides seconded. Parish Administrator Eugene Nicholas clarified that this would be a line-item increase for outreach from \$10,000 to \$100,000. Tasos amended the motion to a \$20,000 total line item, or a 2% tithe on the budget, Anna seconded. Lew Assaley moved to amend Tasos' amendment to include an increase in budgeted Stewardship corresponding to the Community Outreach increase, and Tasos accepted the amendment. The motion to amend passed. Lew accepted the amendment to his motion. The motion passed as amended.

##### **Endowment Committee Rules and Regulations:**

- Bill Tsacalis moved to amend Item 11 so that any excess disbursements beyond an additional 1% be considered an amendment under Item 16. Lew Assaley seconded. After discussion, Lew moved to table the issue to the Spring General Assembly. Andy Stefanopoulos seconded. The motion to table was passed.

#### **Organization Reports**

##### **Byzantine School:**

- Tasos Ioannides spoke about Byzantine School.

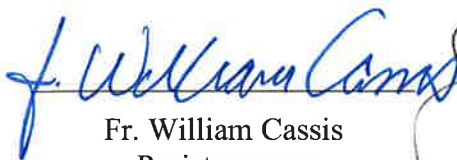
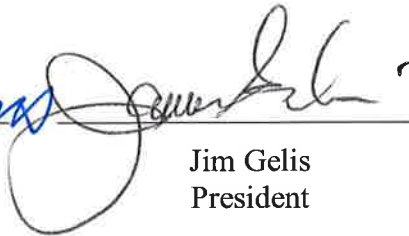
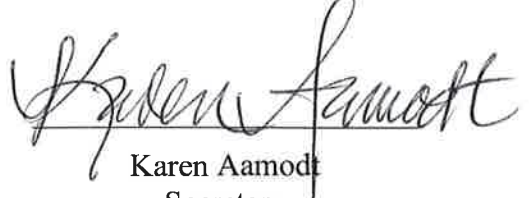
**Adjournment**

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

New parishioners Phil and Christine McKay were introduced. They have relocated from Greenville, NC, to Cincinnati.

**Closing prayer:** Fr. William gave the closing prayer. The meeting ended at 1:49 PM.

Approved as written,

		
Fr. William Cassis Proistamenos	Jim Gelis President	Karen Aamodt Secretary