



METROPOLIS  
OF DETROIT

## 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](http://www.holytrinity.oh.goarch.org) • Email: [office@htsnchurh.org](mailto:office@htsnchurh.org)

### Spring 2018 General Assembly Meeting Minutes February 11, 2018

#### ATTENDANCE

**Clergy:** Fr. Mark Emroll

**Pastoral Assistant:** Mr. Nick Tzetzis

**Parish Council Members present:** Nektarios Papasavvas, Andy Stefanopoulos, Karen Aamodt, William “Buzzy” Gaz, Bill Kanelopoulos, Dimitrios Makrozahopoulos, Jessica Mavridoglou, Jay Williams, Eli Cassis, Ron Nichols, Kim Lambrinides

**Parish Council Members absent:** Sylvia Rombis

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

**Parishioners:** 56 voting members present

#### MEETING

**Call to order:** Dimitrios Makrozahopoulos requested a count for quorum at 12:06PM, and the quorum count was met & confirmed at 12:07PM.

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

**Election of Chairperson:** Andy Stefanopoulos nominated Nick J. Sarakatsannis to serve as chairman. Nektarios Papasavvas seconded. Nick accepted. Lew Parsenios moved to close the nominations. Nick was elected Chairperson of the Spring 2018 General Assembly.

#### **Minutes from the Fall 2017 General Assembly Meeting:**

- The minutes from the Fall 2017 General Assembly had been made available and posted publicly before the Spring 2018 General Assembly.
- 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 Condoridis seconded
  - Motion passed.

## Reports:

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

#### **Given by: Nektarios Papasavvas**

- A large gap between the number of individual/family stewards (**575** in 2017) vs. the number of individuals/families (**897** in 2017)
- A significant gap between the number of individuals/families (**185**) that have contributed to the Community Center vs. number of individuals/families in the Parish
- 3 Major Themes in 2018:
  1. **Accountability**
    - Personal, Family, Community, Parish
    - Greater involvement
  2. **Transparency**
    - Nothing is hidden: information is out there and available for people to know & see
    - People need to know what's going on
  3. **Strategy**
    - **Three Pillars: Engagement, Education, Outreach**

### **Clergy Report:**

#### • **Given by: Fr. Mark:**

1. Gratitude towards the Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas Parish family for 2017
2. Very good progress made by the Strategic Planning Committee
3. A good year for Parish Ministries
  - Reactivated ministries (such as **JOY**)
  - Initiated new ones (**Orthodox Christian Fellowship**, which is blossoming)
  - Book Study with **St. Sophia Mother's Club** kicked off in late January 2018
4. Working towards an ordination date for Mr. Nick
5. Gratitude, thanks and blessings towards all who have given and continue to donate their time, talent and treasure to the Parish

### **Pastoral Assistant Report:**

#### • **Given by: Mr. Nick:**

1. **Excitement with the growth of HOPE/JOY**
  - Continuing to promote and develop synergies amongst the various ministries (such as HOPE, JOY, GOYA and St. Sophia Mother's Club)
  - Building volunteer team
2. **GOYA**
  - Preparing cookies for City Gospel Mission
    - Took it on with an assist from Philoptochos and now is running with it!
3. **OCF**
  - College Students are hungry to learn, to read about and to be active in the faith

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

#### **Given by: Jessica Mavridoglou**

- Ambitious 2017 Stewardship Goal wasn't achieved, but, overall, a very strong Stewardship year
- Other "Donation" categories were above Budget
- Expenses
  - Below budget by being proactive to reduce operating expenses
  - Did not have to borrow from operating accounts
- Community Center
  - **Dean Moulas** asked a clarifying question to Jessica's statement about the covering of monthly repayment obligations for Community Center
    - It was explained by Jessica that it was not needed to dip into or draw out of other income buckets (such as Stewardship) to help with repayment
  - Donations are encouraged and appreciated to help with the 2018 Community Center Campaign to payoff the balance by the end of 2018
  - **Patricia Neundorff** asked a question about the benefit of LED installation with respect to the cost incurred
    - The long term benefit and Return-on-Investment (ROI) was referenced

### **Stewardship Report:**

#### **Given by: Dimitrios Makrozhopoulos**

- **Our Stewardship Theme for 2018 is "Our Faith, Making a Difference!"**
  - Thank you to all those who have graciously given of their **time**, **talent** and **treasure** in support of our Church and its ministries!
  - 2 fundamental questions when it comes to Stewardship
    - 1) **WHY** is Stewardship important?
      - Stewardship is a fundamental part of our Orthodox Spiritual Life and one that leads to personal spiritual **GROWTH** in the faith.
      - Stewardship is faith in action.
    - 2) **WHAT** does our Stewardship actually do?
      - Our Stewardship, our Generosity in our giving **directly funds all of our Church ministries**, including, but not limited to, Sunday Church School, Youth Ministry (GOYA, HOPE, JOY), Orthodox Christian Fellowship, Music Ministry, Oratorical Festival, Scholarships etc.
- **Our Stewardship Goal for 2018: \$500,000**
  - **2018 YTD:** \$73,928 in Stewardship Donations received
- **In 2017, we received \$457,936 in Stewardship Donations.**

- Showed 2 charts showcasing Stewardship data from 2013-2017  
The following trends were highlighted:
  - **Positive overall trend in Total Stewardship received**
  - **Average Stewardship given by each individual/family also continues to climb**
  - **The number of individuals/families that are stewards of our parish has hovered around 600 ± 25**
  
  - **In 2017, there were 575 stewards out of 897 individual/family households**
    - 1) We know many of those 322 families/individuals
    - 2) It's up to us (**all of us**) to reach out to those 322 families/individuals, to connect with them, to talk to them and help them understand that we want everyone to be an active part in the life of the Church
    - 3) If people feel connected & wanted **AND** they understand the **WHY** and the **WHAT** behind Stewardship, they are far more likely to give and give regularly of their **time, talent** and **treasure**
  - The Stewardship committee, along with Parish Council, will be:
    - 1) Exploring different ways to reach people and encourage them to consider making a pledge of their time, talent and treasure
    - 2) Enhancing and increasing giving opportunities for our Parish family.
  - The Stewardship website ( <http://www.holytrinity.oh.goarch.org/stewardship/> ) was updated to help give better insight and information on Stewardship, including
    - What stewardship is & why it's important
    - What our Parish's needs are
    - How time & talent & getting involved with any of our many Parish ministries makes a difference
  - The Stewardship committee will be reaching out to parishioners to try and setup some discussions on how Orthodox Christian Stewardship ties in to our everyday life and finances

### **Strategic Planning Report:**

**Given by: Nektarios Papasavvas**

- **2/20/18** – Leadership Forum
  - **Focus on the 3 Pillars:** Engagement, Education, Outreach
    - A number of people have expressed interest in leading, co-leading or participating
    - **This is open to the entire parish**
    - It will take everyone's engagement to make this work

### **Panegyri Report:**

**Given by: Eugene Nicholas**

- 2017 Panegyri Comments
  - Thank you for the big Turnout of volunteers to unload the trucks (2017)
  - Big turnout from GOYA for tzatziki cupping!
- 130 days until the 2018 Panegyri!
- Sylvia Rombis will be helping with designing the 2018 Panegyri poster
- Thank you to everyone who pours their heart into making the Panegyri a success!

**Unfinished Business:**

N/A

**New Business:**

**2018 Community Center Campaign**

- Gratitude expressed by Jim Gelis towards the 185 families that donated in support of the Community Center
  - We've come a long way, but our work is not yet done!
- **The goal of the 2018 Community Center Campaign is to completely payoff the remaining balance by 12/10/18**
  - **We can do it!** Let's pay this thing off!

**Organization Reports:**

**Church Choir**

**Given by: Nick J. Sarakatsannis**

- An open invitation is extended to anyone interested in joining the choir.

**Philoptochos**

**Given by: Philanthy Nichols**

- Lenten Retreat at the Church on 3/10/18
  - Theme is "*Establishing Godly Priorities in Changing Times*"

**Adjournment**

**Call to adjourn:** Lew Parsenios moved to adjourn at 12:51PM

**Closing prayer:** Fr. Mark led the closing prayer. The meeting ended at 12:51PM

Approved as written,



Fr. Mark Emroll  
Proistamenos



Nektarios Papasavvas  
President



Dimitrios Makrozahopoulos  
Secretary