



METROPOLIS  
OF DETROIT

# HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## Parish Council Meeting Minutes February 21, 2019

### ATTENDANCE

**Clergy:** Fr. Mark Emroll.

**Members present:** Andy Stefanopoulos (Presiding), Matthew Neuendorf (Recording), Eli Cassis, Buzzy Gaz, Bill Kanelopoulos, Peggy Kehayes, Kim Lambrinides, Gus Lazares, Ron Nichols, Gus Poneris, Sylvia Rombis, Jay Williams.

**Members absent:** Gus Koutsogiannis.

**Parish Staff:** Eugene Nicholas, Nick Tzetzis.

### MEETING

**Call to order:** Andy Stefanopoulos called the meeting to order at 6:58 PM.

Fr. Mark administered the Oath of Office to Gus Poneris.

Fr. Mark led the council in the Service of Prayer for the Opening of the Parish Council.

#### **President's remarks:**

- Andy Stefanopoulos:
  - The president opted to defer his comments for later.

#### **Secretary's report:**

- Bill moved to accept the January minutes as distributed online, Ron seconded, the motion passed.
- There was no received correspondence.

#### **Clergy remarks:**

- Fr. Mark:
  - Thank you to everyone who assisted during his absence. Everything went well.
  - Our Parish has received a very generous contribution to the capital fund from an anonymous donor in the form of a matching funds program. It will run for the next three months, from March through May. It will match dollar-for-dollar up to \$100,000. The current loan balance is \$218,000, so we could pay it off entirely, which is important to accomplish prior to December 1, 2019, when the loan converts to a variable interest rate.
  - The Spring General Assembly will take place on Sunday, March 10, which is Cheesefare Sunday. An agenda will be mailed, which will include electing two delegates to the Metropolitan Clergy-Laity Conference in Detroit beginning on

September 26, who will accompany the Presiding Priest and the Parish Council President as representatives from our Parish.

- Great Lent begins on March 11, Clean Monday. We need as many Parish Council members to attend each service throughout Lent as is possible, and ideally we will pass trays at each service.
- Sunday, March 17 is the Sunday of Orthodoxy. The procession of icons will include the Parish Council. Please bring an icon from home, though some will be available if necessary. We will be hosting the Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers in the evening, with invitations to every Orthodox parish in the greater Cincinnati area, followed by a Lenten meal.
- We will be hosting a financial health and wellbeing seminar this Monday at 7 PM. Please attend if possible in support of the strategic planning committee.
- Scholarship applications have been made available, with a deadline to submit applications on Monday, April 1.

**Pastoral Assistant remarks:**

- Mr. Nick
  - HOPE/JOY is growing quickly. 25 kids from Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade attended the last craft event. Wednesdays seem to work well.
  - GOYA had a great weekend in Dayton. The boys; basketball team took 1<sup>st</sup> place, the girls' took 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the B-team was enthusiastic in the face of very stiff competition. Tournaments can be frustrating when the teams have players who are uncomfortable around a church, so Mr. Nick appreciates that our youth are so well integrated into the life of our church.
  - We are hosting a Lenten retreat on April 13. The Metropolis Youth Director will be present, the Hellenic College – Holy Cross will send ambassadors, Nashville plans to send an entire bus, local parishes are planning on sending attendees, and Metropolitan Nicholas plans to attend this and every other metropolis event. Mr. Nick will establish a volunteer sheet in the coming weeks to assist with hosting.
  - Young Adults did an escape room event, and tomorrow they will hold a fast-free-Friday with a group of 14 who will go on a burger night (the week of the Publican and the Pharisee is fast free). The reading group has a heavy Young Adult presence as well.
  - OCF is hosting a regional retreat for the entire Great Lakes region from March 29 to 31. The National Office has arranged for everyone to stay at Camp Kern. Everyone will attend church here on March 31.
  - Vacation Church School is moving to the first week of June, partly to fill in an otherwise-empty part of the calendar, and partly because it's right after school ends and right before things start going up for Panegyri.
  - We have four applicants from our parish for Crossroad. All four are fantastic applicants.
  - We have a teen looking at going on a mission trip to Sweden with OCMC. If it goes through Mr. Nick would like her to present the details to the Parish Council.

- Dance is getting new guidelines, including a new code of conduct and stricter rules.

**Treasurer's report:**

- Kim Lambrinides
  - The North Side Checking balance is \$115,272. The capital improvement fund is at \$15,600.
  - The Endowment Fund is at \$1,257,500.
  - Expenses compared to January of last year were higher, but that is largely due to the semi-annual fair share payment that we made last year.
  - Income did not quite meet expenses in part due to an extra January payroll payment. Grounds expenses relating to weather will appear on the next month's report.

**Parish Administrator's report:**

- Eugene Nicholas
  - The walls in the Narthex entrance are still undergoing work. The plumber came out and jetted both sides. The left is clear and flowing freely, but the right side is still slow. Caulking is on hold until both sides are cleared.
  - The electronic bulletin board is up.
  - Painting is mostly completed. Eugene is working with Kathy Francis to choose colors in other areas of the facilities.
  - Parish Council members should take a look at the small hall later in the year.
  - Craig has many projects on his plate.
  - We had our annual brass cleaning in the Narthex, as well as a few things in the altar.
  - The Panegyri leadership team meeting happened. Baking starts next week with syrup and nut grinding. We also need two chairs, for Dinners and Finance. We need apprenticeships this year, especially two for Operations and one for Gyros, so that we can train up replacements for those who are stepping down. We are not so much looking for idea people as we are for those who are happy to follow established systems. This will be our 45<sup>th</sup> Panegyri.

**Unfinished Business:**

- Mr. Nick's Ordination.
  - Andy proposed drafting a new letter to be sent to the Archdiocese, but requested that Mr. Nick express his preference. Mr. Nick said that such a letter would likely go into his file as a positive reference, but that he would prefer we wait.
  - Andy and Fr. Mark have discussed the issue and their conclusion was that we should take time to pray and to compose a new letter. Overall things seem to have been slowed down by the Archdiocese as part of a revision to the process. We are not privy to details but we can offer our prayers and our support to Mr. Nick. In the past, we have been very fortunate that our assistants have completed the process prior to their assignment to the parish.

- The clock on Mr. Nick's tenure as our assistant priest will not start until his ordination, so delays will not cut into his time here as a member of the clergy.

**New Business:**

- Spring General Assembly
  - Ron moved to accept the agenda, Jay seconded, and the motion passed.

**Stewardship Report:**

- The numbers have been slowly improving year over year for some time now. This is especially true for the number of pledged households.
- We are working on implementing a thermometer and a poster.
- The committee's next task is to schedule and hold their first 2019 meeting.

**Committee Reports:**

- Facilities
  - Can we clean the rust off of the brick walls? Have we ever cleaned the brass lettering on the face of the church? We can do both, but the lettering especially may prove to be a difficult project.
- Greeting Ministry
  - Ron would like to conduct a training session or two, lasting about an hour after liturgy. He would like to choose two Sundays at minimum to make it as easy as possible for both volunteers and Parish Council members to attend at least one.

**ADJOURNMENT**

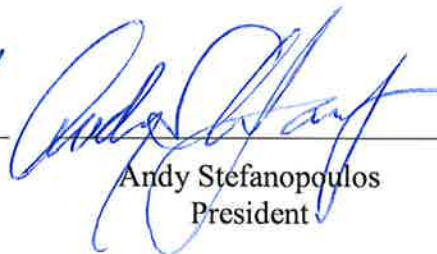
**Call to adjourn:** Kim moved to adjourn, Ron seconded, the motion passed.

**Closing prayer:** Fr. Mark led the closing prayer at 8:24 PM.

Approved as written,



Fr. Mark Emroll  
Proistamenos



Andy Stefanopoulos  
President



Matthew Neuendorf  
Secretary