

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 • Email: goc7000@gmail.com

Spring 2019 General Assembly Meeting Minutes March 10, 2019

ATTENDANCE

Clergy: Fr. Mark Emroll

Pastoral Assistant: Mr. Nick Tzetzis

Parish Council Members present: Andy Stefanopoulos (Presiding), Matthew Neuendorf (Recording), Eli Cassis, Bill Kanelopoulos, Peggy Kehayes, Gus Koutsogiannis, Kim Lambrinides, Gus Lazares, Gus Poneris, Sylvia Rombis,

Parish Council Members absent: Buzzy Gaz, Ron Nichols, Jay Williams

Parish Staff: Eugene Nicholas

Parishioners: 53 voting members present

MEETING

Call to order: Andy called the meeting to order at 12:19 PM.

Opening Prayer: Father Mark led the opening prayer.

Election of Chairperson: Andy Stefanopoulos nominated Tom Barnhart to serve as Chairperson. Sylvia Rombis seconded. Nominations closed, and Tom Barnhart was elected.

Minutes of 2018 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 seconded. The motion passed.

Reports:

President's Report:

- Andy Stefanopoulos
 - Thank you for attending. It is always good to have a quorum on the first try. Those of you who come in the evening have noticed the beautiful new lights. Many of the halls and ceilings have also been repainted. Mostly, though, the gymnasium is beautiful and such an amazing place. Back in 1970, we decided to move the church here and the big question was how we would pay for it. We did pay for it, and furthermore as we added

more parts to the building the question recurred, but we always paid for it. With this most recent remodel, the question returned once again. We borrowed \$350,000 and now we owe just over \$200,000. We have a generous parishioner who has offered to match donations up to \$100,000, so if we can raise \$100,000, we can essentially pay this project off. Think about this as you decide what you are willing to give. Take advantage of this opportunity to retire our remaining debt quickly and easily.

Clergy Report:

- **Fr. Mark:**

- Thank you to the new Parish Council. It is this body that we have elected who have stepped forward to lead this Parish and it is a wonderful, dedicated, and committed group of people who have been entrusted with this great responsibility. It is a joy and a pleasure to serve with them in the work of the Lord, which is the real work of this Parish.
- We are blessed as Andy said by a benefactor, but also by each of you who give.
- We had a first this past year, serving Thanksgiving dinner to our Good Shepherd Food Pantry patrons. Many of us volunteered to help serve, Eugene and volunteers answered phones, and we had over 300 reservations. Fr. Mark wasn't worried about the quality of the work which the volunteers would perform, but rather if we would have enough volunteers. He said, "The Lord taught me never worry about having enough volunteers". Approximately one hundred guests were served by one hundred twenty volunteers. One couple who signed in handed Fr. Mark a thank you card for hosting the dinner; one gentleman said that he had no relatives anymore, so he came here for his Thanksgiving meal. The compliments and gratitude were overwhelming. Fr. Mark expressed appreciation for the volunteers, but most of all to God, Who provides all these things.
- We are still in the process of Mr. Nick's ordination. We may not understand the duration of the process, but it has been changed over the years. We have been very fortunate as a Parish because each of the assistants who have come through so far have had a much shorter time to wait, but for Mr. Nick the process is continuing. We need your prayers, your patience, and your understanding. Mr. Nick has been doing wonderful work in this community. He has done an outstanding job with the Youth Ministries and with technology, such as the electronic board in the hallway. We are extraordinarily blessed to have him and Ivey here with us.

Pastoral Assistant Report:

- **Mr. Nick:**

- Our new livestream setup, combining Facebook with our website stream, is actually less expensive even after switching to HD because of switching providers and because so many people have switched to Facebook. We also have the new digital bulletin board, which is the same system that runs in here. It is easy to update and can be run locally or remotely. We have guidelines for Parish ministries and organizations to provide content.

- HOPE/JOY parent volunteers have been a real blessing, with a whole group of parents supporting it. We had 25 kids for a recent program.
- Vacation Church School will be June 3-6 this year.
- GOYA is going well. At the Dayton tournament the boys A Team took 1st place and the girls A Team took 2nd. We are very proud of both.
- St. Nicholas Camp is July 21-26, for 8-18 year olds.
- GOYA members are really stepping up for national and international programs. We have four applicants for Crossroad. We have one for an OCMC mission trip. We will be hosting the Metropolis Lenten Retreat on April 13.
- OCF members, if you are participating in a meal or program here that has a cost, please be aware of an initiative for our youth budget to cover college student costs. March 29-31 we will be hosting the regional OCF Lenten Retreat. Many should be attending service on the 31st.
- The Young Adult Ministry has had good times; they did an escape room and had 16 people for a meal together.

Treasurer's Report:

- Kim Lambrinides
 - Our year-end cash flow report shows revenues under budget by 9.7%, largely due to stewardship falling short. This is due in part to our continued attempts to become fully stewardship funded. Fundraising surpassed our budget by \$32,274 or 7.5%. Overall cash inflow was 1.6% under budget, or \$17,489. Expenses were all under budget except for payroll. Utilities fell \$10,100 below largely due to upgraded equipment such as more efficient lighting as well as effective gas and electric rate negotiations. Overall expenses were 4% under budget, or \$42,331.
 - We have had three consecutive years of generous stewardship. This has allowed us to avoid relying on our line of credit for monthly expenses.
 - At the end of this year, our loan will convert from a fixed amount to a variable one. It would be invaluable to pay the loan off before the end of this year.

Stewardship report:

- Bill Kanelopoulos
 - Thank you to everyone who has pledged or given. Thanks especially to everyone who has contributed an article to *The Voice*.
 - 2019 goal is \$505,000. As of Thursday March 7, 2019, pledges have been received from 276 households totaling \$314,515, which is an excellent start. Year-to-date we have received \$96,660 in donations from 244 stewards.

Strategic Planning report:

- Fr. Mark
 - We have a couple of activities. Most recently, the Engagement Committee hosted a financial planning seminar. Last November we had Fr. Jon Boukis speak about stewardship. The committee continues to meet and plan further programs, and hopefully

everyone will engage with the programs and with the committee. If anyone has any input for the committee, contact Nektarios Papasavvas.

Panegyri Report:

- Peter Zaferes
 - This summer will be the 45th Annual Panegyri Greek Festival. Thank you to Montgomery Inn for sponsoring the volunteer t-shirt. We have some minor layout changes this year, and one major change. We are combining gyro and souvlaki booths into a single mega booth. The new location should improve the performance of both booths. We are on our way to going green, including biodegradable disposable materials. We are still looking for two chair people, Dinners and Finance. We have a great parking chair, but we need volunteers for managing the parking lot. We will put out a volunteer sign-up list soon.
 - Panegyri isn't really a three-day event; rather, there are people working on it for weeks both before and after, from unloading trucks to baking to putting things up or tearing them down. We start early and we need all the help that we can get. Craig Sansone does not get enough recognition for all the help he gives throughout this process.
 - Each year we try to surpass the last. Let's work together to make this a record year.

New Business:

Mr. Nick:

- Bill Tsacalis moved to express the appreciation of this assembly and this parish for Mr. Nick's selfless and exemplary service, and that we look forward to his speedy ordination. Cindy Nicholas seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Nomination of Clergy-Laity Representatives:

- The conference will be at Detroit, from September 26-28 (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday).
- The last several years we have been asked to honor parishioners, but this year is Metropolitan Nicholas's 20th year since his enthronement, so this year will be to honor him.
- Our Parish must send four representatives: our Proistamenos, our Parish Council President, and two elected delegates. We need to nominate two people. Matthew Neuendorf nominated Justin Bates, Irish seconded, and the nomination was accepted. Bill Kanelopoulos nominated Gus Stroplos, Nick Parthenakis seconded, and the nomination was accepted.

Organization Reports:

Philoptochos:

- Georgianne Gaz
 - We are taking this opportunity to inform the Parish of this year's plans. This April we have a speaker to address the Greek/Armenian genocide in Turkey, as well as a video presentation on kidnapped children during the communist revolution. We encourage as many youth as possible to attend, and we will serve a Lenten luncheon.

Ahepa:

- Andy Stefanopoulos
 - March 23 will be Greek Independence family night. It will be a bit different from previous years. All GOYA and college students will be admitted free. There will be a band. The price has been reduced, but there is still an open bar.

Choir:

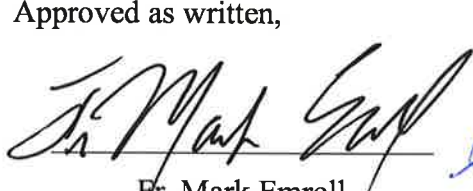
- Nick J. Sarakatsannis
 - Janice is retiring. We will need a new choir director. If anyone knows someone who is qualified, please refer them to us.

Adjournment

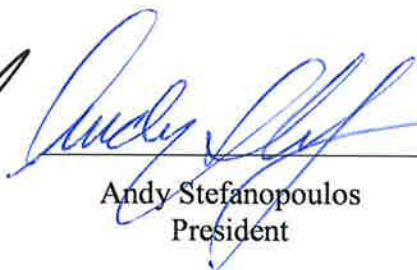
Call to adjourn: Lewis Parsenios moved to adjourn. Bill Tsacalis seconded.

Closing prayer: Fr. Mark led the closing prayer. The meeting ended at 1:08 PM.

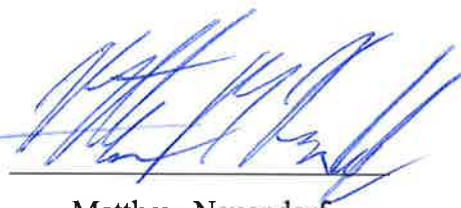
Approved as written,



Fr. Mark Emroll
Proistamenos



Andy Stefanopoulos
President



Matthew Neuendorf
Secretary