



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Council Meeting Minutes August 20, 2020

ATTENDANCE

Clergy: Father Mark Emroll, Deacon Nick Tzetzis

Members present: Gus Lazares (Presiding), Matthew Neuendorf (Recording), Joanne Georgostathis, Bill Kanelopoulos, Gus Koutsogiannis, Gus Poneris, Sylvia Rombis, Tom Tsiominas

Members absent: Peggy Kehayes, Andrea Siouris

Parish Staff: Eugene Nicholas

MEETING

The meeting was held via Zoom to comply with stay-at-home orders.

Call to order: Gus Lazares called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

Fr. Mark led the council in the opening prayer.

President's remarks:

- We are doing a great job with services so far. The single parishioner area is a good innovation.
- Hopefully the worst is behind us.

Secretary's report:

- Tom Tsiominas moved to accept the June minutes as distributed online, Joanne Georgostathis seconded, the motion passed.
- We received a thank-you message from Metropolitan Nicholas for our the Friends of the Metropolis donation.

Clergy remarks:

- Fr. Mark
 - Thank you to the council members for all the help they've offered with services.
 - With our new planning and layout, consider filling the inside seating first for each row, and fill the middle and outer seats using the side aisles.
 - Please be aware of where we are in the Divine Liturgy, try to maintain appropriate timing for when to come up and when not to come up. Avoid going up when Father is facing the congregation, censuring, or offering a blessing.
 - We are grateful for the truly inspiring offering that our parishioners have given in response to the Stewardship Committee's appeal.
 - We are preparing for the resumption of Sunday Church School and Greek School. The shape and form will be in accordance with current guidelines.

- Fr. Mark has assembled the 2020-2021 Liturgical schedule and will be distributing it in the coming weeks.
- The process for registering and attending services has progressed extremely well.
- The Clergy-Laity Congress will be online on September 9-10. We will be represented by Justin Bates and Peter Aamodt.
- Metropolitan Nicholas hopes to arrange for a Zoom call with the Parish Council to check in on how things are going with our Parish.
- Deacon Nick
 - Thank you to Father Mark and the Parish Council for the beautiful edible arrangement after Tommy was born. It was the perfect gift.
 - We spoke with the Religious Education Team. Deacon Nick searched for a suitable platform for digital communication and chose Discord, a platform originally for gamers but that has grown to host communities as diverse as specific interest groups, city-wide groups, and all kinds of others. He has prepared a document with plans, rules, and regulations for how we can use our Discord server properly, appropriately, and safely. He will be hosting two Facebook Live demonstrations. We hope to have an orientation for our SCS teachers on September 2. One key purpose of Discord is to provide an avenue for social interaction, from a coffee-hour channel to a pets-and-plants channel. It will work most readily if we all commit to using it regularly.
 - OCF is working on a national OCF Discord that would give college students all over the country to communicate locally, regionally, and nationally. OCF with Metropolitan Nicholas's blessing has appointed Deacon Nick as an officer.

Treasurer's report:

- Tom
 - Northside Checking is at \$180,130 vs. \$224,520 in 2019.
 - The Capital Improvement Fund has \$67,945 vs. \$3,300 in 2019.
 - Our Endowment Fund has a balance of \$1,487,980 vs. \$1,319,300 in 2019
 - The Iconography Fund stands at \$2,066,640 vs \$2,041,350 in 2019.
 - We are still operating in the green for the year, but for the last couple of months we have been operating at a loss, though July was significantly better than June. This is likely due to the excellent response to our Panegyri appeal.

Parish Administrator's report:

- Eugene Nicholas
 - Small Hall
 - Gus Poneris and Craig did an outstanding job with the paint job.
 - Phones
 - The phones are here and are scheduled to be installed next Tuesday. The bell controller will be installed soon, likely by the end of next week.
 - Finance Committee and Budget
 - Normally the Finance Committee meets before the September Council meeting to recommend a budget, but a lot of discussion needs to happen first. It is uncertain when the Finance Committee can prepare a budget. If we can hold a Panegyri next year, it will probably be something much smaller than in the past. The Parish Council should also consider looking at additional fundraising sources.

Unfinished Business:

- Iconography
 - Fr. Mark
 - We are waiting for an opportunity for the iconographer to come in and look at the space. His visit has been deferred due to Covid-19, and it is unpredictable when he will be able to reschedule.

Stewardship Report:

- Bill Kanelopoulos
 - Stewardship received is up around \$92,000 more than it was last year, and we have raised even more since our appeal went out to the Parish. We are so grateful to the faith and generosity of our parishioners. It's not just about the money, but about people recognizing the importance of our church and our ministries.
 - Eugene is sending out thank-you letters for those who offered additional pledges.
 - We are planning to send out the 2021 "Thy Will Be Done" folders next week.

ADJOURNMENT

Call to adjourn: Bill moved to adjourn, Gus P. seconded, the motion passed.

Closing prayer: Fr. Mark led the closing prayer at 7:22 PM.

Approved as written,



Fr. Mark Emroll
Proistamenos



Gus Lazares
President



Matthew Neuendorf
Secretary