



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: htsnchurch.org • Email: office@htsnchurch.org

Parish Council Meeting Minutes March 19, 2020

ATTENDANCE

Clergy: Father Mark Emroll, Deacon Nick Tzetzis

Members present: Peggy Kehayes (Presiding), Matthew Neuendorf (Recording), Joanne Georgostathis, Bill Kanelopoulos, Gus Poneris, Sylvia Rombis, Andrea Siouris, Tom Tsiominas

Members absent: Gus Koutsogiannis, Gus Lazares

Parish Staff: Eugene Nicholas

MEETING

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

Father Mark administered the oath of office to Joanne Georgostathis

Call to order: Peggy Kehayes called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Fr. Mark led the council in an opening prayer.

President's remarks:

- Peggy Kehayes
 - No remarks.

Secretary's report:

- Tom Tsiominas moved to accept the February minutes as distributed online, Joanne Georgostathis seconded, the motion passed.
- We had no received correspondence.

Clergy remarks:

- Fr. Mark
 - First and foremost, on behalf of Fr. Mark's family and especially his mother, thank you for the expression of sympathy and love by the Parish Council and the Parish.

- We are in unprecedented times. We have been receiving directives from the Metropolis, which means we are not currently having any physical presence on church premises in order to avoid spreading the virus. Fr. Mark prays that we and our families are all in good health.
- Services are not cancelled, and Fr. Mark intends to continue to have them as scheduled, with Monday, Wednesday, and Friday services, Compline, Presanctified Liturgy, and Salutations. The directives that we have received remain in force until they are rescinded, and so we are likely to have a very different experience this year. For the most part services will include only Fr. Mark and Dn. Nick.
- We are keeping minimal staff in the building, and we will be doing a deep cleaning. We will maintain office hours as much as possible, though there will be no in-person business and no in-person worship without permission. For funerals only immediate family are permitted to attend. All services will be broadcast.
- The food pantry closed this week and will be closed next week, but we are looking for ways to keep it open without compromising the safety of our Church and the people who we serve. This will likely include pre-packaged donations dropped off at the church that can then be left for people to pick them up at a later time. Our current system of browsing and choosing items is not possible.
- We hope to expand the use of this conferencing technology as a way to remain connected with the people of the Parish during this time. We may produce a parish-wide video message.
- The Panegyri Leadership Team has been in conversation. They are meeting this coming Monday. Preparations are already underway, but have currently been suspended. The committee will make a recommendation to the Parish Council, but the decision of whether to hold the festival or not is up to the Parish Council.
- Deacon Nick
 - The retreats scheduled have been cancelled, as are all in-person ministries. We have already started digital ministries, many of which are using Zoom, such as the reading group and the GOYA parents.
 - Dn. Nick and Fr. Mark will be looking at several items: vulnerable populations such as the elderly and shut-ins, especially food deliveries; changing the food pantry to allow it to reopen; listing parishioner-owned restaurants or restaurants that employ parishioners so that people know about them as take-out options and which will be listed alphabetically; college students, who we have already begun to check in with to make sure their needs are met; and spiritual support ministries.
 - Digital ministries will be expanded to include high and middle school reading groups, potentially adding a weekly discussion with teens and GOYAnS. We are also looking at a fellowship event possibly involving watch parties or games. We may be setting up a discord server, beginning with the Young Adults, which would be useful for all manner of collaboration and communication. We are looking at adding a second adult reading group, potentially a GOYAn Bible study, and finally scheduling family check-ins with one household at a time. Our hope is

to leverage tech to allow for direct connection rather than indirect offerings that leave people alone.

Treasurer's report:

- Peggy
 - Our North Side Checking account has \$93,507.
 - The Capital Improvement fund has \$144,441.
 - The Endowment Fund has \$1,149,690.
 - The Iconography Fund is newly established with a balance of \$2,062,052.
 - From January to now we are up \$5,867 from this time last year.

Parish Administrator's report:

- Eugene Nicholas
 - Building Restoration
 - The project should wrap up this week, but it may extend into next due to rain. Eugene will do a walk-through with Hicon next week.
 - Financial
 - We need to consider two things immediately. First, Eugene recommends that we increase the amount set aside for the restoration project from \$70,000 to \$76,000, drawn from the Capital Improvement Fund. Second, we need to consider postponing the renovation of the small hall either later this year or into the next, as although funds are already allocated it isn't actually necessary and we would be prudent to prepare for potential financial repercussions of the pandemic.

Unfinished Business:

- Icons
 - The Beautification Committee met and discussed ideas and thoughts on March 5. They were scheduled to meet with Tonelli at the end of February, but he was unable to attend and so corresponded with Fr. Mark via email. A meeting with the iconographer will be scheduled in the future.

New Business:

- Building Restoration
 - Matthew Neuendorf moved to increase the amount budgeted for the building restoration project by \$6,000, Tom Tsiominas seconded, the motion passed.
- Blood Drive
 - Tom asked if we would still be able to hold our blood drive. Fr. Mark said that he could approach the Metropolitan, but that he is confident that we will not receive an exemption. It is also unlikely that Hoxworth will have available mobile units. We will happily publicize that people can donate directly with the blood center.

Stewardship Report:

- Bill Kanelopoulos
 - Commitments are up \$365,789, considerably up from this time last year. Receipts are at \$164,408, which is up significantly from this time last year. We have 286 Stewards who have given, also up from last year.
 - So far this year our Parish has been very generous with their Stewardship, but we don't know what is going to happen given the pandemic.
 - Fr. Mark added that we briefly mentioned online giving options when we first implemented online-only services, but we do need to be mindful in this time that our parishioners will be suffering through challenging and difficult events. We need to make sure that they know it is okay no matter what they need to do with their finances.

Committee Reports:

- Events Committee
 - We will not be holding an Agape Luncheon this year.

ADJOURNMENT

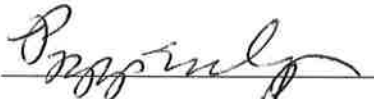
Call to adjourn: Andrea moved to adjourn, Matthew seconded, the motion passed.

Closing prayer: Fr. Mark led the closing prayer at 8:23 PM.

Approved as written,



Fr. Mark Emroll
Proistamenos



Peggy Kehayes
Treasurer



Matthew Neuendorf
Secretary