



# HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## Parish Council Meeting Minutes May 21, 2020

### ATTENDANCE

**Clergy:** Father Mark Emroll, Deacon Nick Tzetzis

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

**Members absent:** Gus Koutsogiannis, Gus Poneris

**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 6:06 PM.

Fr. Mark led the council in the opening prayer.

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

- The letter for this month's Voice was just finished.
- On a micro level, it was exciting to see the overwhelming support for our food pantry.
- Metropolitan Nicholas held a Zoom conference call with various clergy and council presidents. It sounds like the bishops and metropolitans are meeting with the archbishop, but there are no hard dates yet for re-opening. There will not be a one-size-fits-all approach even within the metropolis. When we do begin to open again, it will be a challenge for all of us.

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

- Peggy Kehayes moved to accept the March minutes as distributed online, Andrea Siouris seconded, the motion passed.
- We had no received correspondence.

#### **Clergy remarks:**

- Fr. Mark
  - All Ohio clergy were on a Zoom call. Each state is likely to have its own plans and guidelines for opening public worship. There is nothing definitive to share, though the discussion was very fruitful. Each locality has its own particular situation, but for us there

is a possibility that we might be able to open up some time during the next month. We haven't received a written confirmation of that yet. Our approach will likely be more cautious than what some others are doing at the moment. Father and Dn. Nick have been discussing what an opening will look like. It will be phased. The council will need to plan with the clergy for various procedures and requirements, such as mask wearing. Especially with regard to enforced social distancing, the council may need to pursue a more hands-on approach to seating arrangements. We also need to consider building access. There will be no coffee hour. We need to establish some concrete plans so that when we get the go-ahead we can act quickly. A lot depends on when we get the actual guidelines.

- Deacon Nick
  - GOYA is finishing their book. The College reading group is continuing. The Young Adults group is adding two new sessions: Mondays at 6, reading "The Great Divorce," starting on June 1, and Fridays at 12:30, reading "Philokalia," a book of spiritual writings from the early fathers. The OCF reading group is continuing. In June we will add Story Time with Deacon Nick for our HOPE/JOY.
  - We are looking at a virtual summer camp and reading group for regional GOYAns, featuring clergy from across the region.
  - The parish Discord server is still in development. We have added some college students. We are also working with the national ministry to develop a larger-scale Discord arrangement. This could be a partial replacement for in-person coffee hour and personal socialization in an age of social distancing.

#### **Treasurer's report:**

- Peggy Kehayes
  - Northside Checking is at \$160,818 vs. \$91,220 in 2019.
  - The Capital Improvement Fund has \$68,490 vs. \$14,550 in 2019.
  - Our Endowment Fund has a balance of \$1,344,141 vs. \$1,250,130 in 2019
  - The Iconography Fund stands at \$2,065,170 vs 0 in 2019.
  - Our financial balance sheet is mostly normal with the exception of the small business loan.

#### **Parish Administrator's report:**

- Eugene Nicholas
  - Roof Leaks
    - Temporary patches seem to be holding. Today they were replaced with permanent patches, so hopefully both leaks are fixed.
  - Lights
    - Four external fixtures had not received LED upgrades, so Craig's brother upgraded them all. We now have entirely LED external lighting.
  - Summer Picnic
    - Stricker's Grove has canceled all events. Our picnic is therefore canceled, and they have applied our deposit to next year without any change in price. We do want to replace the picnic with a new event of some kind.
  - Loan
    - The 8-week timeframe is an issue, but Congress seems to recognize this and has bills already moving through to extend it. If it gets an extension to 12 weeks we

will get a full conversion from loan to grant. The Metropolis is putting together info for all the parishes to help them deal with the complications of the loan.

**Unfinished Business:**

- Iconography
  - The project is on hold. The next step is to have our iconographer come in, but obviously that is impossible during the pandemic. We might be able to bring him over in a couple of months.

**New Business:**

- Scholarship Sunday
  - Fr. Mark
    - We will hold this on June 7. We expect to announce recipients on that day, though both donors and recipients will receive prior notification. We will also list them in the August Voice. We will mention each Sunday Church School high school senior as well. We had over twenty applicants for scholarships.

**Stewardship Report:**

- Bill Kanelopoulos
  - Commitments are \$393,380, well over last year, and receipts are up nearly \$50,000 from last year, by the grace of God and the generosity of our parish. The committee is grateful to everyone, and to Fr. Mark and Dn. Nick for their efforts in maintaining services and broadcasts.
  - We need to be mindful that there is no Panegyri this year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Closing prayer:** Fr. Mark led the closing prayer at 6:43 PM.

Approved as written,



Fr. Mark Emroll  
Proistamenos



Gus Lazares  
President



Matthew Neuendorf  
Secretary