



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Council Meeting Minutes October 15, 2020

ATTENDANCE

Clergy: Father Mark Emroll, Father Nick Tzetzis, Metropolitan Nicholas

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

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 6:35 PM.

Fr. Nick led the council in the opening prayer.

President's remarks:

- Gus Lazares
 - Thank you to His Eminence for joining us this evening.
 - We have passed from merely reacting to the pandemic back to taking a more active part and decision making.

Secretary's report:

- Peggy Kehayes moved to accept the September minutes as distributed online, Gus Koutsogiannis seconded, the motion passed.
- We had no received correspondence.

Clergy remarks:

- Fr. Mark
 - It is a privilege to have His Eminence with us here this evening.
 - It is good to know if any parishioners have concerns or questions, so that we can address them. The Parish Council has been handling them in a respectful way, but know that Fr. Mark and Fr. Nick are both available as well.
 - Thank you to the members of the Parish Council for their diligence with services.
 - The Religious Education Team had a meeting. Fr. Nick established a Discord server and Sunday Church School registration is open, but we are now beginning to reevaluate our

plans. We were originally planning to divide along traditional class levels, but we are now looking at dividing things in a different fashion.

- This year we will not be holding our annual Thanksgiving dinner. Instead we will be reverting to how we had done things in the past with distribution of turkeys and the same for Christmas with hams.
 - Starting this week, we have begun to celebrate the Divine Liturgy on Wednesdays as well.
- Fr. Nick
 - Father is grateful to Metropolitan Nicholas not only for being here tonight but for ordaining him, as well as to Father Mark and the parish for their support and love, and he is grateful for the opportunity to serve here in this new capacity.
 - With the permission of the Metropolis, we have added some outdoor ministries. This includes a Young Adult fire-side chat, a GOYA campfire, and tomorrow will be a college student campfire.
 - Our reading groups are meeting virtually on Monday and Friday, reading “How to Be a Sinner”. We are working with the RET to figure out what our religious education programs will look like.
 - One of our elementary school students is working on his Chi-Rho project for the Cub Scouts. The Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting helps to coordinate these projects, and they ask that parishes give a \$50 donation to help with the costs.
 - Thank you for your support, but also for the vestments. They are the only set, which match a set of Fr. Mark’s. They will be a part of his ministries for the rest of his life.

Treasurer’s report:

- Peggy Kehayes
 - Northside Checking **\$149,960 vs.** \$203,470 in 2019
 - Capital Improvement **\$62,000 vs.** \$3,360 in 2019
 - Endowment **\$ 1,478,890 vs.** \$1,336,685 in 2019
 - Iconography Fund **\$ 2,067,208 vs** \$2,050,480 in 2019
 - We are currently running a \$36,307 positive balance, which is very good and largely attributable to the amazing Stewardship numbers for the year.

Parish Administrator’s report:

- Eugene Nicholas
 - Leaks
 - We are still working on this.
 - Altar HVAC
 - The quote was very high, so we are sending Feldkamp back to the drawing board to see if they can give us any other options.
 - Electric Panels
 - We discovered that several of our electric panels need to be replaced. We are taking care of it, and it should come to around \$6,200.
 - PPP Loan
 - Forgiveness applications have begun. All of our loan moneys went to payroll, so we anticipate no complications.

- Thanksgiving Outreach
 - We are only distributing Turkeys, not full packets. It is difficult to do full packets for both Thanksgiving and Christmas, so we are saving the packets for Christmas.
- Baklava
 - We still have a lot of trays available, so we are going to add the option to buy smaller boxes at 6 and 12 pieces, with trays still available. Lady's Philoptochos has offered to assist, so we are planning to give them a portion of what we make since they can't do their Sweet Treats fundraiser. All sales will be processed online with curb-side pickup.
 - We are able to do baklava sales this year at no cost because Panegyri sponsorship donations completely covered all expenses.
- Freezer
 - The new freezer compressor and air handler have been installed.

Unfinished Business:

- Fall General Assembly
 - We will be convening the Fall GA this Sunday. We are requiring registration for the in-person assembly. To date we have 25 parishioners in good standing who have registered, and we need 51. If we do not have enough people signed up, we will determine that we do not have a quorum and will push the Assembly into November, at which point the quorum will consist of however many parishioners in good standing who are present.

New Business:

- EOCS Donation
 - Peggy Kehayes moved to donate \$50 to the EOCS, Andrea Siouris seconded. The motion passed.

Stewardship Report:

- Bill Kanelopoulos
 - Commitments for this year have reached \$482,430, with receipts at \$473,155, a year-to-date record with two months still in the year.
 - The 2021 theme is "Thy Will Be Done", designed by Sophia and Cassia Chryssovergis.
 - September 20 we had Stewardship Sunday. Thanks to Tom Tsiominas for giving such a heartfelt testimony on Stewardship. Father Mark also blessed the commitment cards that were turned in.
 - For 2021 we are up to \$158,600, with is very high for this early.
 - Fr. Mark and the committee are preparing a letter for the general parish.

Episcopal Remarks:

- Metropolitan Nicholas
 - Pandemic
 - The synod and the Patriarchate opted to maintain the singular, common chalice and spoon rather than individual spoons.
 - This whole time is hard for everyone. Nobody is happy. The clergy and the parish councils are doing their best, with the Metropolitan's guidance, to keep everyone as safe as possible both physically and optically.

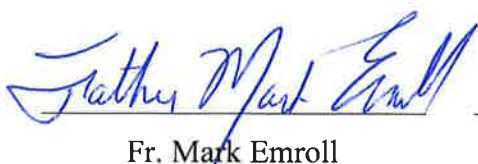
- Metropolitan Nicholas is grateful that so many parishes are streaming their services.
- On behalf of the Metropolitan Council, thank you to the clergy, the parish council, and the people for their diligence through the pandemic.
- Archdiocese
 - Some of the financial issues regarding the pension were not made clear to anyone until very recently. One of the causes of the current pension debt is because the Archdiocese thought the pension was over-funded and stopped contributing. It is being examined, and the Archbishop believes that we can raise enough funds to make it fully funded.
 - Metropolitan Nicholas will be asking in the future for every parish to consider ways that they can help.
 - If the pension fund is frozen, then Metropolitan Nicholas will ask that every parish do something to help make sure that the pensions survive. If the fund is rebuilt, then the Archdiocese will ask every parish to contribute.
 - The seminary is not free. It gives a fine education, but it costs. The Metropolis, under Metropolitan Nicholas, established a fund to help each year with some of the costs for students and graduates of the seminary.
 - The Archdiocese is in financial difficulty. The Archbishop significantly reduced the payroll and let go 50 or 60 people as part of the effort to correct the situation.
 - There have been some changes in the archdiocese, including transfers and disciplines. The Metropolis of Detroit is in good standing. Our Metropolis has the highest percentage of owed moneys paid to the archdiocese, and the only metropolis that did not owe anything to the clergy pension fund. The Friends of the Metropolis program makes the difference for our metropolis.
 - There is another upcoming ordination, the first Saturday in November, at Carmel in Indiana.
 - There are no clergy in the Metropolis asking to leave, and several asking to come in. At this point, half of the clergy are not Greek. It says something good about the people of our Metropolis.

ADJOURNMENT

Call to adjourn: Andrea Siouris moved to adjourn, Tom Tsiominas seconded, the motion passed.

Closing prayer: Fr. Mark led the closing prayer at 7:59 PM.

Approved as written,



Fr. Mark Emroll
Proistamenos



Gus Lazares
President



Matthew Neuendorf
Secretary