



HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Spring 2020 General Assembly Meeting Minutes March 1, 2020

ATTENDANCE

Clergy: Fr. Mark Emroll, Dn. Nick Tzetzis

Parish Council Members present: Gus Lazares (Presiding), Matthew Neuendorf (Recording), Joanne Georgostathis, Bill Kanelopoulos, Peggy Kehayes, Gus Koutsogiannis, Gus Poneris, Sylvia Rombis

Parish Council Members absent: Andrea Siouris, Tom Tsiominas

Parish Staff: Eugene Nicholas

Parishioners: Sufficient attendees were present to make a quorum.

MEETING

Call to order: Gus Lazares called the meeting to order at 12:04 PM.

Opening Prayer: Father Mark led the opening prayer.

Election of Chairperson: Andy Stefanopoulos nominated Nick J. Sarakatsannis to serve as chairman, who respectfully declined. Nick J. Sarakatsannis nominated Lewis Assaley, Philanthy Nichols seconded. Nominations closed, and Lew Assaley was elected.

Minutes of 2018 Fall General Assembly Meeting:

- The minutes of the prior General Assembly were posted publicly. Irish Condorodis moved to suspend the rules, dispense with the reading of the minutes, and accept the minutes as posted on the website and bulletin board. Marie Tsacalis seconded. The motion passed.

Reports:

President's Report:

- **Gus Lazares:**
 - The past year has seen many blessings for us, from capital improvements, to Dn. Nick, and we have more on the horizon. The challenge is to avoid complacency and to keep our Parish on track. Please let the Parish Council know if you have any feedback or suggestions.

Clergy Report:

- **Fr. Mark:**

- Since the last General Assembly, we held our second annual Thanksgiving dinner for our Good Shepherd Food Pantry patrons. We served close to 200 people. It was extraordinarily well received and well organized. We once again had a tremendous number of volunteers.
- Mr. Nick became Deacon Nick with Metropolitan Savas and with the blessing of Metropolitan Nicholas. We congratulate Dn. Nick and Diakonissa Ivey.
- We have begun the process of preparing the iconography project. We have been in contact with the original iconography studio and will keep the Parish informed.
- The Lenten season is upon us. In everything that we do may we do it in a fashion that exemplifies the life that we are called to live, in holiness, with prayer, fasting, and a spirit of forgiveness.
- We have been experiencing a lot of growth here, including a number of people who are interested in, and inquiring about, the faith, and a number who will be joining us in the coming year. When we see people who we do not know or recognize, we must welcome them.

- **Dn. Nick:**

- Thank you to the community for all the love and support, both waiting for ordination and the process.
- Please pray for Dn. Nick and Dns. Ivey, as they are expecting a boy sometime in June or July.
- HOPE/JOY is continuing well, with a solid monthly ministry and a consistent cast of characters. Anyone with kids in pre-K through 5th Grade, please look at the Voice and consider participating.
- In GOYA, the boys' team won the basketball tournament for the second year in a row.
- GOYA will be hosting a weekend-long regional retreat from April 3 to 5 here at the church, which will include Nashville. We already have fifteen registrants.
- The Young Adults are growing a team to host a 2021 regional event.
- We have a great group of college students, who will today be participating in the national day of prayer, which will include a 48-hour period of prayer to kick off Lent.
- The retreat at Camp Kern is coming up.
- The reading group will meet at 6 pm throughout Lent.
- The UC Women's game saw a group attend to cheer on Sophia Gritzali, a member of our OCF.

Treasurer's Report:

- **Peggy Kehayes:**

- Year-end cash flow report: Stewardship and other general revenues are up \$53,191, though candles and trays were down around \$17,000. The goal remains to become fully Stewardship funded. Fundraising revenues were all above budget, with overall cash flows below budget by \$16,511. Expenses were below budget, especially building repair and maintenance due in large part to efficiency upgrades. Overall expenses were \$42,681 under budget.

- Our financial account balances are all healthy, including \$115,330 in our North Side checking account, \$144,434 in our Capital Improvement fund, \$1,351,240 in our Endowment Fund, \$2,061,008 in a newly created Iconography Fund, and \$7,820 in our emergency repair fund.
- We have had four consecutive years of generous stewardship

Stewardship report:

- **Bill Kanelopoulos:**

- The 2020 Stewardship theme is “Bringing God into Focus.” Thank you to everyone who has given of time, talent, and treasure in support of the Church and its ministries, and for everyone in this room today. Thank you to those who have taken the time to contribute an article to The Voice. If anyone would like to write one, please let one of us know.
- The goal for 2020 is \$510,000. As for Saturday, February 15, over 277 households and individuals have pledged \$337,814, and we have received \$116,928 already. Stewardship donations are up from this time last year. January was our second largest month on record for stewardship donations, and our single largest January.
- Great Lent is a time of renewed devotion through prayer, fasting, and alms giving. Thanks and gratitude to Fr. Mark and Dn. Nick, and may the entire Parish have a blessed Lenten season.

Strategic Planning report:

- Nektarios Papasavvas:

- Some time ago, we clarified a mission and a vision for our Parish, and we have been busy with the help of Fr. Mark and Dn. Nick working to implement them. The three pillars are engagement, education, and outreach. We have accomplished a lot: hosting a lecture with Fr. Parsenios on hymnody as part of a lecture series; growing and supporting HOPE/JOY, which is about getting everybody of every age to engage with the Parish and with Orthodoxy; the reading group has completed 3 books and is working on a 4th; the Bible study wrapped up Luke’s gospel; the St. Sophia Mother’s Club is sponsoring “Teaching Orthodoxy;” we held GOYA and OCF Lenten retreats; and a lot of other things are happening.
- The Thanksgiving dinner was a life-changing experience and has a true impact on our community. The ratio of volunteers to guests was very high.
- The blood drive is being coordinated by Jim Raptis and Tom Tsiominas.
- We are trying to improve communication, such as via email distribution of the monthly and Sunday Voice, and we are looking at ways to improve youth participation and are considering grants to support that.
- Good job to everyone who volunteers, and thank you to Fr. Mark and Dn. Nick.

Panegyri report:

- Peter Zaferes:

- The last General Assembly was in October, so some things have change since then. The Leadership Committee planning never stops.

- We are working toward a volunteer committee to help gather and coordinate volunteers. Younger people need community service hours, so we are setting something up so that they can help with setup, takedown, and running tasks throughout.
- The bulletin has baking and other sessions scheduled.
- We always try to make each year better than the last. Thank you for helping us do so.

New Business:

Clergy-Laity Delegates:

- The national Clergy-Laity Conference is scheduled for June 30 to July 3 in Cleveland, OH. We need two delegates in addition to the Presiding Priest and the Parish Council President.
- Nick J. Sarakatsannis nominated Peter Aamodt, Peter accepted. Gus Lazares nominated Justin Bates, Justin accepted.

Blood Drive:

- Hoxworth serves the entire tristate area. If you can volunteer to give blood, please do so.

Adjournment

Call to adjourn: Sylvia Rombis moved to adjourn. Irish Condorodis seconded.

Closing prayer: Fr. Mark requested that everyone keep the local clergy and the entire Parish in their prayers. He then led the closing prayer. The meeting ended at 12:57 PM.

Approved as written,



Fr. Mark Emroll
Proistamenos



Gus Lazares
President



Matthew Neuendorf
Secretary