



METROPOLIS  
OF DETROIT

## HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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### Parish Council Meeting Minutes May 17, 2012

#### ATTENDANCE

**Clergy:** Fr. William Cassis, Fr. Paul Truebenbach

**Members present:** Chris Chryssovergis (Presiding), Peter Aamodt (Recording), Frank Cook, Nick Georgiton, Eleni Haralamos, Dr. Anastasios Ioannides, George Kalemanis, Dr. Pete Kambelos Ron Nichols, Ianthe Schulte, Andy Stefanopoulos.

**Members absent:** Brad Fielden, John Sakelos.

**Honorary Member:** Sophie Guethlein.

**Parish Staff:** Chris Jonson, Eugene Nicholas.

#### PRE-MEETING

**Opening Prayer:** Fr. Bill gave the opening prayer at the fellowship meal preceding the meeting.

#### MEETING

**Call to order:** Chris Chryssovergis called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

#### **Presider's remarks:**

- Thanks to Ianthe Schulte for this evening's fellowship meal.
- Thanks to Eleni Haralamos, who had the great idea to designate a Council member as Narthex Greeter each week. This system will serve as an improvement over the weekly search for a volunteer. Members should arrange substitutes as needed when unable to serve on an assigned Sunday.

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

- Minutes: the minutes of the April 19, 2012, meeting were unanimously approved.
- Correspondence/announcements: the following were communicated to the Council:
  - Thank-you letter from Fr. Bill to the Council for the thoughtfulness expressed for his 20th anniversary at the Parish and for the donation to Hellenic College-Holy Cross Seminary.
  - Solicitation from IOCC.

**Clergy remarks:**

- Fr. Bill:
  - Thanked everyone for his anniversary recognition. He was overwhelmed by the expression of the Parish's love for him.
  - Distributed guidelines for hosting the Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly and Philoptochos Conference. His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas has asked if the Parish is interested in hosting next year's event. Normally, this event is held outside the Detroit area every other time, and we have offered to host in the past. There are many logistical considerations, e.g., hotel and meal arrangements, and several organizational committees to staff with volunteers. While the Parish has sufficient meeting space for committees, there may be a need for larger space when all attendees are gathered. The likely dates are in late September or early October 2013, and Archbishop Demetrios also attends.
- Fr. Paul:
  - While most youth programs are winding down for the summer months, GOYA will continue to meet. He plans to consider how to rejuvenate JOY/HOPE this coming year.

**Treasurer's report:**

- The April 2012 financial reports were reviewed. Nick Georgiton reported an increase of \$83,000 in expenditures attributable to the installation of the front doors, which had already been funded, and to one of the air conditioning units. Endowment management fees were also discussed, investment income exceeds the amount spent. The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

**Parish Administrator's report:**

- The church roof continues to leak. So far, the copper valleys and drains have been replaced, and that area is now leak-proof. The area above the sanctuary was next examined. The roof directly above the altar has now been repaired, but a leak above the vestment room remains. Two companies will bid for the extra caulking work needed.
- Panegyri savings cards are here now for sale prior to the festival. The cards serve as coupons for several local restaurants. They sell for \$10 each. Only 300 need to be sold to break even, and the Parish stands to net \$19,000 if all 2,000 printed cards sell.
- Parish cash flow remains sufficient that the line-of-credit has not been needed so far this year, a first since it was set up in 2006. This is due to prudent cash-flow management, particularly related to expenses, and it is possible that the line will not have to be accessed at all prior to the festival.
- There was a great response to the first quarter stewardship statements that were mailed out last month. Many checks were sent in after the mailing. Whereas stewardship had been down \$30,000 for the year last month, the gap is currently only \$10,000.

**New business:**

- 2013 Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly: Nick Georgiton moved that the Parish offer to host this event. The Parish last hosted the event in 1993. Per Fr. Bill, Metropolitan Nicholas will set the actual date of the event. Peter Aamodt spoke in favor of the motion as consistent with the Parish's leadership role in the Metropolis. Frank Cook suggested having a general organizational meeting as was done for the Centennial, in which interested volunteers teamed up as they chose. Ron Nichols asked about prior hosting experiences – Fr. Bill indicated that he would contact prior hosting parishes. George Kalemanis asked about event financing – Fr. Bill has spoken to Fr. Ted Petrutiu, who has hosted two prior Assemblies, and was told that adbook revenue should be adequate to cover event expenses. The motion passed unanimously. Fr. Bill asked Council members to review the materials he had distributed and be prepared to suggest individuals who could chair committees. Members should also consider who should serve as the Council's liaison with the event organizing committee.

**Committee reports:**

- Panegyri: Frank Cook indicated that this year's festival will be the same as last year, only better. Fr. Bill asked about the status of the poster – it will be ready to be printed by this coming weekend [May 20].
- Endowment: Nick Georgiton reported on the recent endowment fund dinner. It was very successful, with over 100 attendees. Both Metropolitan Nicholas and Fr. Bill gave effective presentations. Pledges now exceed \$100,000. The giving tree, which will indicate various pledge levels by colored leaves, rocks and trunk, has been ordered and will be displayed in the glass entryway by the bookstore. It was also noted that the first bequest has been received in the amount of \$11,000. While the bequest was technically a general donation, per Pete Kambelos it was the executive decision of the Finance Committee to allocate it to the endowment. Fr. Bill supported that decision as a way to communicate to others in the community that similar bequests will be used wisely.
- Stewardship: Andy Stefanopoulos offered a brief update. Some pledge cards have been received in response to the stewardship address given last month after liturgy. The Committee will consider other approaches to continue this year's campaign.
- Men's Ministry: Ron Nichols extended an invitation to a Parish workday this Saturday [May 19]. The group will also discuss suggested ministry opportunities, hoping to narrow focus on two.

**Other:**

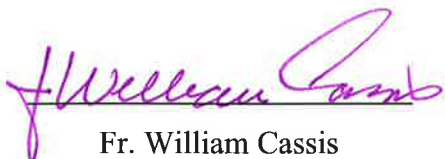
- Several members offered good-of-the-Parish comments and observations:
  - Nick Georgiton reported parishioner comments that he had received. One individual asked for more Greek in the Liturgy. Ron Nichols had also fielded a request to have the Nicene Creed recited in Greek. Fr. Bill commented that language use is a pastoral decision. Nick also received a request for short obituaries to be included in *The Voice* – Fr. Bill has declined such requests.
  - Pete Kambelos suggested that, since John Sakelos no longer works at Spring Grove Cemetery, the Parish find a new point person who could assist with funeral arrangements there. There is an employee who would like to introduce herself to the Council and speak for five-ten minutes. The consensus of the Council was to schedule this for the August 2012 meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

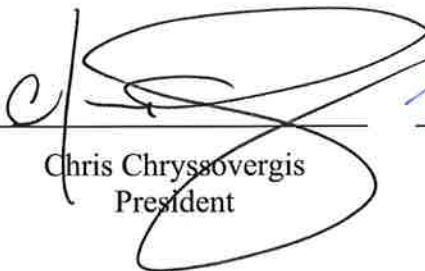
**Call to adjourn:** the motion to adjourn was made at 8:03 pm.

**Closing prayer:** Fr. Paul offered the closing prayer.

Approved as written,



Fr. William Cassis  
Proistamenos



Chris Chrysovergis  
President



Peter Aamodt  
Secretary