



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Fall 2013 General Assembly Meeting Minutes November 10, 2013

ATTENDANCE

Clergy: Fr. William Cassis

Parish Council Members present: Dr. Pete Kambelos, Maria Kontopos (Recording), Peter Aamodt, Nick Georgiton, Alex Geromes, Eleni Haralamos, George Kalemanis, Ron Nichols, Peter Rodish, John Sakelos, Nick Sarakatsannis, Andy Stefanopoulos

Parish Council Members absent: Ianthe Schulte

Parish Staff: Eugene Nicholas, Chris Jonson

Parishioners: 65 in attendance

MEETING

Call to order: Dr. Pete Kambelos called the meeting to order at 12:28 PM

Opening Prayer: Father Bill gave the opening prayer.

Election of Chairperson: Tom Zaferes nominated Nick J. Sarakatsannis to preside as Chairperson. Lew Assaley seconds the motion. Evan Andrews moves to close the nomination. The motion passes unanimously.

Minutes of April 21, 2013 Spring General Assembly Meeting and September 15, 2013

Special General Assembly Meeting:

- The minutes of the April 21, 2013 Spring General Assembly Meeting and the minutes of the September 15, 2013 Special General Assembly Meeting were presented by Maria Kontopos.
- Lew Assaley makes a motion to accept the minutes as posted. Chris Chrysosovergis seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

Treasurer's Report for 2013:

- Nick Georgiton presented the 2013 Treasurer's Report.
- To Nick Georgiton, the glaring issues on this Cash Flow v. Budget report is that stewardship is far below what we budgeted. If we look at cash outflows, you will find that we are tracking within \$4000 of what we budgeted and where we actually are through October. What this tells Nick is that Eugene Nicholas has a firm grip on what we

spent and it is very close to what we budgeted. The part we cannot control inside of the Cash Flow report is when stewardship comes in. We are \$46,000 below budget in stewardship.

- Nick Georgiton explains that we have an issue with the roof. The roof issue compounds our cash flow situation in a negative way. Eugene Nicholas has listed with respect to the roof repair what we have done so far. We have received \$22,000 so far in donations for an expected \$158,000 repair. There are 532 stewards who have not given. If every single steward donated, we need \$238 per steward to fund the roof. Obviously there are people having hard times, so if we really want to pay for the roof, every little bit helps. Please consider spreading the word about the situation we find ourselves in. We have to put out the message that we need people to help with the roof so we can remain viable in our mission.
 - Lew Assaley comments that it is apparent that someone fell down in stewardship, so someone did not do their job. He asked if there was a concerted effort to make additional efforts besides the mailings.
 - Nick Georgiton responds that everyone in the room could have done a better job. It is not constructive to point fingers. Nick Georgiton thinks it is everyone's job to put the message out there regarding the roof and the needs of this church.
- Chris Chrysovergis asks if this is meant for informational purposes or if we vote on this issue? Nick Georgiton responds that this is the information we are asking the General Assembly to approve. The information regarding the cash flow and the roof is just an expanded part of the cash flow report.
- Evan Andrews make a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented by Nick Georgiton. Tom Zaferes seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

Appointment of Audit Committee:

- Nick J. Sarakatsannis explains that three people need to be on the Audit Committee. We are looking for names.
 - Eugene Nicholas explains that the Audit Committee has gotten much easier to do because of the system the Committee has put together. It takes one morning. They work on it from 9:00 AM- 1:00PM. Then the chairperson takes the information home and writes a report.
- Milan Snyder asks if there is a professional auditor monitoring the books, and if so, what does the in-house Audit Committee do then?
 - Eugene Nicholas answers in the affirmative. Nick J. Sarakatsannis explains that the in-house Audit Committee goes through the checking account and reconciles it. They look at the bills and make sure that legitimate bills are paid.
- Karen Aamodt nominates Patty Neuendorf for the Audit Committee. Patty accepts if no one else will step up.
 - Tom Zaferes nominates Nick J. Sarakatsannis. Nick J. Sarakatsannis accepts.
 - Karen Aamodt nominates herself.
 - Milan Snyder nominates himself.

Appointment of Election Committee:

- The election is being held on December 8, 2013.
 - Lew Assaley nominates himself.
 - Melanie McNulty nominates Loy Jonson.
 - Ron Nichols nominates Carol Stefanopoulos
- Lew Assaley explains that all the Committee has to do is come on Election Day and count the votes.
 - Eleni Zaferes nominates Tina Zaferes. Tina Zaferes accepts.
 - Carol Stefanopoulos nominates Philanthy Nichols. Philanthy Nichols accepts.
 - Elaine Snyder nominates herself.

Endowment Committee Nominations:

- Stephen Bottomley nominated a slate for the Endowment Committee
 - Nick Georgiton for three years
 - Evan Andrews for two years
 - Stephen Bottomley for one year
 - Father Bill, the Parish Council Treasurer and the Parish Council President are always on the Committee.
- Jim Gelis makes a motion to close. Chris Chryssovergis seconds the motion.

Parish Council Nominations:

- The slate was presented included George Kalemanis, Justin Bates, Chris Chryssovergis, Stacy Loukoumidis, David Greene, and Frank Cook.
 - Karen Aamodt also nominated Matthew Neuendorf.
- Lew Assaley moves to close. Tom Zaferes seconds.

Audit Committee Report:

- Jim Gelis explains that the Audit Committee met with Eugene Nicholas in August and looked at the 2012 financial reports. Based upon the review, the Committee found nothing that gave us cause to believe that the statements of revenue do not represent the financial activity. The same thin holds true for the balance sheets.
- Milan Snyder comments that he is associated with another group and he is involved in handling their financial situation. At the end of every month, he gets a tally of what their expenditures were and everything should balance. If it does not, that is when the committee will go after it to reconcile it. It shouldn't be hard to tell the congregation each month where the church stands financially.
 - Nick Georgiton comments that as a Treasurer, every month we have a Parish Council meeting and every month we have a revenue and expense statement and a balance sheet that is available as public information. What we do not do every month is balance our expenses and revenues to the penny because we cannot. There are people who contribute once a year, weekly, etc. It is impossible to have an exact balance every month as far as revenue and expenses go.

- Ron Nichols makes a motion to accept the Audit Committee Report. Bill Tsacalis seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

President's Comments:

- Dr. Pete Kambelos states that in appreciation of everyone's time, he will make some short comments. He appreciated having the opportunity to serve on the Parish Council and as President. It has been an honor to work with the other members. Per the bylaws, he has to take a break, but he is happy to have 7 highly qualified candidates that will offer their time and talent.
- Dr. Pete Kambelos reminds everyone that stewardship is the responsibility of everyone, not just the Parish Council. He encourages everyone to serve on the stewardship committee.

Priest's Comments:

- Father Bill comments that we should not only be addressing stewardship, but we should also be conscientious of giving time and talent to the development of the ministries in the church. He encourages everyone to give some time and thought to serving the community.
 - Father Paul departed last Sunday. He arrived in Cheyenne healthy and well. Metropolitan Nicholas confirmed that Father Irenaeus will arrive on December 1. Metropolitan Nicholas has also submitted names to Father Bill regarding the permanent second priest and the lay assistant.
 - Father Joseph is a member of the Russian Orthodox Archdiocese. He is on sabbatical through December. He will be resuming responsibilities in a Parish down in Florida. We have been blessed to have him.

Panegyri Report:

- Eugene Nicholas explains that there was not a reason to have this on the Agenda. We did the follow-up meeting and gave the final financials that have been published. We made budget on the profit. Our gross sales were lower though. There is nothing else to be reported.

New Business:

- New Ovens: Eleni Zaferes was recognized and comments that everyone in the room knows that the kitchen ovens do not work properly. Although they have been serviced time and time again, they still do not work.
 - Eleni Zaferes makes a motion that the Parish Council review the options of purchasing three new convection ovens for the kitchen and to review the current kitchen facility to see what needs to be updated. The cost is approximately \$7,800/oven for a total of \$24,000. Philoptochos will make the first donation. Loy Jonson seconds the motion. The motion passes.
- 2014 Operating Budget: Nick Georgiton comments on Eleni Zaferes' motion. He asked everyone to keep in mind that she charged the Parish Council to look into options. If these ovens are something we should buy, it is not in the budget. He is excited about the ovens, but he just wanted to make the distinction clear.

- Eleni Zaferes responded that it is her intent for the motion to establish a kitchen fund. That is why she said Philoptochos will make the first donation.
- Lew Assaley comments that one of the first things this roof issue has done is expose the fact that we have not done something for the diminishing condition of this facility. We have not done a good job of holding money in reserve for this. A separate fund is needed for maintenance.
 - Nick Georgiton comments that he is 100% in agreement. Where we have come from and where we are now moving is the right direction. Five years ago we borrowed \$300,000 and we just paid it off.
 - Dr. Pete Kambelos adds that one of the things he emphasized was an emergency repair fund. We have already established such a fund. This Parish Council has been forward thinking that we establish this fund. The proceeds from the memorial candles go towards this fund. This building is falling apart and it is apparent to everyone.
 - Lew Assaley asks if we can do something like earmarking the car raffle money to go exclusively to this fund?
 - Nick Georgiton replies that we did start an emergency fund. He thinks it is fiscally responsible to make a list of things in the building and when we think it will need to be replaced. He does not think it is smart to start earmarking revenues now.
 - Bill Tsacalis suggests that we take 10%-15% of the Panegyri proceeds and put them in a segregated fund that is dedicated for that purpose.
 - Nick Georgiton responds that if we make a fund as a part of the budget, it is not something that we need to get from a certain place. As long as we make it a budget item, that is something that we will follow through with.
- Marie Tsacalis makes a motion to approve the budget. Eleni Zaferes seconds the motion.
 - Father Bill comments that one of the churches in the area that is a model for us is the Tri-County Baptist Church. They have 800 families and 8 clergy members. Father Bill asked them what is their secret? They answered that they are doing a ministry-based budget- they budget for what they want, not based on what they have. We should have expanded ministries to meet the needs of everyone. If we want a ministry-based program, we need to stop only funding what we really have and look to what we really want.
 - Patty Neuendorf asks if there has been a discussion on passing a second tray for major repairs and capital improvements?
 - Eugene Nicholas comments that he will attest that a second tray will only get you \$300.
 - Father Bill comments that when churches have a targeted second tray, you tend to get more money.

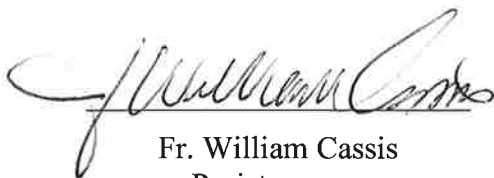
- Matthew Neuendorf comments that people still start to budget for a second tray if it's predictable. If you combine predictability and targetability, we can get more money.
 - Lew Assaley moves to call the question. The motion and the budget is unanimously approved.
- Stewardship: Andy Stefanopoulos addresses the General Assembly regarding stewardship. He comments that he takes some responsibility for the poor performance of the stewardship campaign. He looks at other parishes that are smaller than ours that are giving 2-3 times as much money as our stewards. We do not give enough to our church and that is sad.
 - Lew Assaley comments that he is glad to hear what Andy Stefanopoulos is saying. He asks if there are plans for 2014 to make outgoing phone calls and asking people to raise their stewardship?
 - Andy Stefanopoulos responds that the committee is taking a different approach. We will have an outside committee and develop something like that.
 - Bill Tsacalis asks what was the comparable amount last year?
 - Eugene Nicholas responds that we are \$20,000 behind from last year.
 - Elaine Snyder comments that when you are making phone calls, make sure to have a list of people who have given so you can call each one and that you are not making random calls to the wrong people.

ADJOURNMENT


Call to adjourn: Lew Assaley makes a motion to adjourn at 2.04 PM. Ron Nichols seconds the motion.

Closing prayer: Fr. Bill offered the closing prayer.

Approved as written,



Fr. William Cassis
Proistamenos



Dr. Pete Kambelos
President



Maria Kontopos
Secretary