



HOLY TRINITY-ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Spring 2014 General Assembly Meeting Minutes January 27, 2014

ATTENDANCE

Clergy: Fr. William Cassis and Fr. Irenaeus Cox

Parish Council Members present: Andy Stefanopoulos, Stacey Loukoumidis (recording) Peter Aamodt, Justin Bates, Chris Chrysovergis, Frank Cook, Alex Geromes, David Greene, Maria Kontopos, Matthew Neuendorf, Peter Rodish, John Sakelos, Nick L. Sarakatsannis,

Parish Council Members absent:

Parish Staff: Eugene Nicholas, Chris Jonson

Parishioners: 52 in attendance

MEETING

Call to order: Andy Stefanopoulos called the meeting to order at 11:57 AM

Opening Prayer: Father Irenaeus gave the opening prayer.

Election of Chairperson: Elaine Snyder nominated Nick J. Sarakatsannis to preside as Chairperson. Nick L. Sarakatsannis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes of November 10, 2013 Fall General Assembly Meeting:

- The minutes of the November 10, 2013 Fall General Assembly Meeting were presented by Stacey Loukoumidis
- Lew Assaley made a motion to accept the minutes as posted. Irish Condorodis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

President's remarks: Andy started off by thanking everyone for coming and that he is starting off great since no one came to the meeting the previous week. Our roof repair is lacking. We need about \$80,000 more dollars - so get out your check books and wallets to add to the fund. He is very humbled to be president and if you have any issues or concerns please see Andy or a parish council member and it will be brought up in the PC meetings.

Priest remarks: Fr. Bill has lost his voice. Father Irenaeus reported that the GOYA Junior boys team won the basketball tournament in Dayton and the girls came in second. Congratulations to all of the youth. Youth programs are continuing but unfortunately have not had many participants recently. He is hoping it is because of the weather. He is looking forward to book club and the activities that they have planned, as well as the services during lent. He encourages everyone to attend Lenten services.

Treasurer's Report for 2013:

- Eugene Nicholas presented the 2013 Treasurer's Report for Peter Rodish.
- Eugene wanted to thank Nick Georgiton, for being a great treasurer.
- Eugene also said that being Parish Administrator for the last 4 years has been a blessing and it has given him a unique view of our Parish. He has been involved in the finances of the Church for the past 6 years. He was on Parish Council when we took out the \$325,000 loan for the roof; we repaved the parking lot, and took care of the termite issue. He can tell from a financial perspective we have taken every step to get our finances under control and as predictable as possible. We have found savings in every area of our budget while growing our ministries and serving our parishioners and surrounding community. With that, we do not have an expense problem, we just haven't found a way to expand our income through stewardship. Considering that we paid off our loan last year we should have been in much better financial position at the end of the year. He realizes we have a roof issue and considering we started that capital drive in September we have only raised 43% of what we need. Our last payment of \$14,000 is due March 9th; he is hoping we won't have to borrow to do that. Our line of credit balance is \$86,000.
- Eugene informed us our ordinary revenue is off 5% of budget. Keep in mind that contains about \$48,000 for the roof repair. So, if that wasn't in there we would be close to budget. Fundraising is over budgeted so combined we made budget and goal for festival. That is due in part to sponsorship of the festival. Our cash flow is \$70,000 plus the roof \$86,000 added together is \$156,000 to the negative. Lew Assaley brought up the \$300,000 loan we took out in the past. He asked if we did a special fundraising for that. Eugene responded we did not. Lew wanted to know why we are doing one for this roof. What's wrong with the financial management or cash flow in 13-14 compared to 4 years ago? 4 years ago we had to repair the roof, Bishops walk, and the parking lot. It was a lot of money and we needed it now. If we were in the position we are now we would have been in trouble because we have only raised \$58,000 that would have been a far cry from the \$325,000. Eugene would have thought that this would be an easy task. We have only 128 people that have participated in the drive. Our average roof tray generates \$325 a week which means it would take another 4 years to generate the money. Lew thinks that if you are going to have a capital drive it needs to go through Parish Council. It is not done through letters.
- The candle increase went from \$7 to \$10. The increase in money is supposed to go in the emergency repair fund. We have been in a state of emergency since September so we haven't been able to add to that fund. Eugene agrees it needs to be more than a letter. He has put an article in the voice every month. Irish asked do we have a line item for reserves for roof etc... Eugene responded \$7,200.
Question of when the loan was paid off? Eugene answered it was supposed to be November but we paid it off in July so we saved about \$1400 in interest. The Endowment fund money that we borrowed has been paid off as well.

Pat Neuendorf motioned to accept treasurer's report and Jim Gelis seconded. Motion passes.

Stewardship report: Peter Aamodt

Peter informed everyone that they should have a copy of the stewardship report for 2014. Our goal is to raise \$430,000 through stewardship. We are running a little ahead of schedule as of this point in time. We have 206 parishioners that have pledged this year and we had 168 at this time last year. The number of dollars pledged so far this year is \$230,000 compared to \$183,000 for 2013. We have received \$84,000 in pledges so far versus \$76,000 last year. Pledges amount to 54% of our goal. One improvement from last year is that we have 38 more families pledging. We are converting stewards into pledging parishioners. By pledging it helps us better budget because we know what to expect coming in. Average stewardship among pledgers is higher than the average of those who do not pledge. We still only receive stewardship from 60% of our parishioners. We have no recorded stewardship from 40%. This makes it difficult to create a budget so we need to find out why people aren't pledging. Peter is looking for volunteers to contact the 360 parishioners who are not pledging and how we can get them into a partnership with the parish. This will be taking place during Lent. Lew Assaley asked what the average amount pledged was. Peter responded that it is under \$900 for pledges for 2013 and under \$600 for stewards. We have about 360 families participating.

Panegyri Report: Frank Cook

This year's festival will be the same as last year except this year's will be better. Franks wife reminded him that he needs to write letters, do more speeches, and thank the volunteers. As general chair this will be the last speech he will make except to say it will be the same festival as last year. As far as letter writing Frank wrote a letter for the brochure. As time goes on they will update his letter because he doesn't write letters. As far as thanking people many years ago Buzzy Gaz thanked him for helping at the festival. He told Buzzy he doesn't help, he works; he's not volunteering, he just shows up. So, if in all of this I have missed my mark, please see Fr. Bill about the chairmanship of the festival because I serve at his pleasure.

Chris Chrysovergis spoke saying that it is the 40th anniversary and round numbers have significance. So there will be some significant things. We will be mailing out information to chair people of the booths and have them contact their workers so that we are sure each booth is covered. We need all hands on deck. We will be screening the movie *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*. Eugene has advertisements planned at certain movie theaters. There is the potential for dancing on Fountain Square. We just need people to help organize these events. We can do as much as we want and are able to do as long as we have the help. Irish Condorodis brought up if there any way to restore the plastic cup at the beer booths for the 40th anniversary. Chris will take this up with Eugene and find out why we got rid of the cups. We have been more profitable not doing the cups. There is also a health issue. You are supposed to wash the cups out in between fillings. They are going to look into it for the 40th.

There will be Panegyri meetings where we can vet all of these ideas.

Endowment fund report: Nick Georgiton

- In order to create this report Nick looked at the last 3 years statements. There really hasn't been any effort put into it. Twenty years ago Fr. Bill spearheaded that we do this and they started it with \$300,000. There really wasn't any change over the past 10-15 years. Fr. Bill mentioned that we have

to do something because there really hasn't been any change. Nick took it as a challenge and made more people aware of the endowment fund. In December 2011 we had \$293,000; in December 2012 there was \$567,000; in December 2013 there was \$868,000; and as of February 2014 there is \$883,000. Clearly people are becoming more aware of the fund. Once we reach a million dollars we will be able to pull 4% a year which is \$40,000 that we can put towards capital improvements, a lay assistant, or anything the committee deems important.

- The increases are great and he wanted to look into how the increase occurred. There are only three ways to increase it: 1. Have gains, 2. Investments or 3. Contributions. On the contribution side you can either have pledges or bequeathments. On the pledges side we have \$124,000 in pledges and we have received \$78,000 of that. The investment gains were \$153,000. The gains were between 15-20 percent. The bequeathments were \$380,000 which means people did estate planning and included the church in their will. If you haven't considered including the church in your will that might be something you would like to do.
- The plaques on the tree are going to be going up to recognize the people that have donated. Memorial donations do go into the fund and that is another way that the Endowment fund can grow. Nick J. Sarakatsannis asked if Nick can give clarification on pulling from the Endowment fund once we reach a million. Nick Georgiton doesn't feel qualified to explain the question because we haven't been there. That is something in the by-laws that we need to look at. If the fund falls below 1 million you can't take any money. We might have to look at amending the by- laws at the Endowment committee meeting.

Father Bill mentioned that Endowment fund rules are determined by the General assembly. If there are changes that need to be made it will go to Parish Council and they will bring it to the General Assembly.

Old Business

Kitchen up grades – Nick L. Sarakatsannis said that at the last GA meeting Eleni Zaferes brought up some issues with the ovens. Nick looked into the ovens and determined that the ovens work but they are very old. They do however cook unevenly. So instead of just getting rid of the old ovens Parish Council decided to purchase 2 new double gas ovens. They will be installed within the week. After researching ovens Nick decided to purchase baker's depth ovens which will result in more even cooking. There were some other organizational items purchased as well. There were some significant donations to offset the \$18,000 dollars. There was a \$1000 donation by a parishioner, AHEPA donated \$2500 and Philoptochos donated \$3000.

New Business

Clergy Laity conference is in July. Fr. Bill and Andy Stefanopoulos will represent us and we need to nominate 2 people at large. Peter Aamodt and John Sakelos have been nominated for the slate. The parish will pay for 4 delegates to go and represent our Parish. Lew Assaley seconded Parish Council's motion. Motion passed.

Organizational reports

Long Range Planning: Lew Assaley

When we started the committee our goal was simple “we needed a group of parishioners to look into the future”. The LRC has completed a lot of items for the parish. They came up with a maintenance schedule, took care of the parking lot, and planned the 90th and 100th celebrations. They also conducted surveys; the most recent one showed 5 different areas of concern:

1. Welcoming and inclusion only 70% of people felt welcomed at our parish
2. Communication things would happen and no one knew about it
3. Expansion and Improvements
4. Finance
5. Liturgy

Almost immediately parish council took the lead. We have a welcoming committee. The communication is better with the Voice being electronically distributed. In the General Assembly meeting they decided to not do any more expansion or improvements as of now. Parish council has reached out to the community because they would like to have 100% of our finances covered by stewardship. We all need to help with this so when Peter Aamodt comes and asks say yes you will help. In regards to Liturgy we need an assistant priest and a lay assistant. We need this because our youth need someone to relate to them. Parish Council needs to figure out a way to do something about this emergency fund. The long range committee has some ideas about future surveys. They encourage you to look at where we will be in 5 or 10 years.

No other organization had a report.

Adjournment

Call to adjourn: Irish Condorodis motioned to adjourn the meeting. Motion was passed.

Closing prayer: Fr. Irenaeus offered the closing prayer. Meeting ended at 1:54

Approved as written,

		
Fr. William Cassis Proistamenos	Andy Stefanopoulos President	Stacey Loukoumidis Secretary