

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
General Assembly Minutes on March 19, 2017

**Call to order:** Meeting called to order by President Mary Winstead at 12:15PM.

**Opening Prayer:** Father Paul led in prayer.

**Election Chairperson:** Motion made to elect Mary Winstead as meeting chairperson by Lekita Essa. Second by Sue Teleoglou. Motion carried.

**Reading of the Minutes:** Mary Wehbie

Minutes sent by mail in advance of the meeting. Motion to accept by Harry Nicholos. Second by Jim Riley. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bob Lyford

Bob reviewed the balance sheet and funds available in each account. He reports a cash position of \$77,000 used for daily operations of the church. He pointed out Paragon Capital Campaign and Paragon Capital Money Market at \$3.6 million. He reports that in January, Parish Council transferred \$150,000 from the Festival account: \$100,000 to Capital Building Fund and \$50,000 to Property and Maintenance Fund. Paragon Memorial Fund has \$53,000 in a restricted funds. Paragon Property and Maintenance Fund has \$93,000.

Rhonda Milkovich questioned whether there was a threshold of \$50,000 above which Parish Council cannot transfer money without general assembly approval. Discussion followed whether the amount is 10% of the budget, a flat amount of \$50,000, or whether this applies to expenditures, not transfers.

Joanna Biliouris made motion to transfer \$100,000 from the Festival Fund to Capital Campaign Fund and \$50,000 to Building Fund. Bob Lyford clarified for the assembly that Capital Campaign is for the new building, and the Property and Maintenance Fund is for renovations and upkeep of our current facilities. Second by John Demos.

George Kapetanakis would like to hold vote until end of meeting in the event money is needed for something else.

Question asked regarding how funds are invested. Bob reports that they are in interest bearing accounts. Parish Council discussed during its March meeting to request that the bank invest the money in a program with other institutions so that all money remains insured. \$250,000 per bank is FDIC insured. Bob reports that the interest rate is lower, but money is protected.

Chris Pappas inquired whether Audio Visual is included in the budget. Bob notes that \$5000 is allocated within Property and Facility Maintenance Fund.

Bob reviewed the Profit/Loss Statement for the year. He reviewed current year and past year expenditures. As of the end of February 2017 revenue and stewardship are behind budget, but total income is \$10,000 greater than 2016. Compensation expenditure is slightly above 2016 budget. Archdiocese assessment falls within line item budget numbers. Facilities expenses fell short of budget. Ministries have not spend what was anticipated. This covered stewardship shortfall. For the 2016 year, operations lost \$600. This is improved from a \$13,000 deficit in 2015. A question was asked regarding phone expenses. Bob reported that Earthlink greatly increased fees by eliminating a "loyalty program". Phone system changed to Time Warner Cable and he expects to come back within budget. A question was asked regarding investment income from Paragon accounts. Bob reports interest is .65% and money earned in an account stays in that account. Motion to accept treasurer's report by Joanna Biliouris. Second by Steve Flaherty. Motion carried.

**Festival Update:** Jason Kekas. Festival 2017 dates: September 8, 9, 10<sup>th</sup>.

Jason and a group met with Highway Patrol and State Fairgrounds to discuss traffic control and keeping the gates opened. The outcome is that traffic patterns will be managed around NCSU football game to ensure better flow of traffic. Traffic control reported that there will be brief period of congestion of about 40 minutes. 4 gates will be opened, instead of one opened 2 years ago. Frances Mathes, Mitch Owen and Jeff Winstead were instrumental in getting the issues resolved. NCSU game is at noon and subject to change and out of our control. We will need to inform our customers regarding traffic patterns. Dedicated parking for volunteers is behind the building. It is imperative to park in employee area. Cooking will begin shortly after Pascha. Fairway billboard has a program in which ads will pop up on cell phones for an event during the NCSU game. Jason would like to use this feature to attract NCSU game attendees. Highway 70 billboard not available and he is exploring other options. Cost will not be tremendously higher. Artwork will be done in the summer. Festival kickoff luncheon is April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Kitchen update:** Chris Pappas

Kitchen renovation: Drawings that were completed by architect David Mauer were run through permit office. One more inspection needs to be done onsite for final approval. Due to church events, we have a window of time to complete the project—after café and before Easter. He discussed sweat equity to lower cost. If we were to bid project today the bids are only good for 30 days. The plan is to proceed with bidding project in November, award the job in November, if approved, and start the project in January with a mandate to complete mid April. Permit will sit but due to time we may have to go through the process again. Will resubmit in July, if necessary. Commercial dishwasher is not included in plans, but plans can include layout to place one if funds become available at a later date.

Chris reiterated that the kitchen project is completely separate from Capital Campaign. This renovation is to last until at least phase 2 of building plans. The goal is to bring the kitchen up to modern capabilities. It was recommended that a wish list be posted for parishioners to donate items. Until bids are done, Chris cannot determine cost. George Kapetanakis inquires whether we can rent a facility for festival cooking and get kitchen done now. Jason thanked Chris for his work.

**Capital Campaign:** Chris Pappas

George Pappas, Chair, asked Chris to provide the following report. We currently have \$3.6 million on hand. There are approximately \$500,000 unfulfilled pledges as people are waiting for a final decision to be made. The architect calls monthly to ask where we are with project. We are considering 3 sites and expect to have decision in 4-6 months. Once the status of French Drive is determined we will have 4 options. Discussions are ongoing with the city. Catalyst is that we need a site and a new drawing and

then reignite capital campaign. It was suggested that town halls resume when more is known. Mary Winstead thanked Chris for his consistent work on our facilities. She cites daily emails with items to be addressed—a true unsung hero with a servant's heart.

#### **Clergy Laity:** Mark Langford

Mark Langford reviewed what a Clergy Laity Conference is: a biennial meeting of all 74 churches within the Metropolis of Atlanta. The meeting occurs before the National Archdiocese Convention so that we can forward any recommendations to the national level. The focus is to promote parish life and spiritual growth, uniform governance, educational programs, financial systems and philanthropic concerns. Members of assembly include the Metropolitan, Chancellor, members of Metropolis Council, Chair of Metropolis Philoptochos Board, members of Archdiocesan council, and clergy and lay representatives of each parish. Philoptochos and SE Choir Federation are included at the same time and attend several events jointly.

Choir will be performing under direction of guest conductor at opening ceremony, Philoptochos luncheon, grand banquet, and the Hierarchical Liturgy. Mark reviewed the daily schedule of events. He presented options to participate in Commemorative Album or purchase tickets to individual events. Presbyter Mary Christy spoke to the historic nature of the event. She encouraged parishioners to participate by placing ad in album or purchasing tickets to events.

#### **Election Committee**

Stephanie Starr, Meg Economy, and Penny Gallins serve on the committee. Meg and Penny are unable to serve this year.

Nomination of Stephanie Starr by Connie Kledaras. Second by Harry Kledaras. Motion carried.

Nomination of George Kapetenakis by John Fakiris. Second by Irene Iatrides. Motion carried.

Nomination of Emma Paradeses by Arthur Paradeses. Second by John Demos. Motion carried.

#### **President's Comments:** Mary Winstead

Mary reports that it is an honor and privilege to serve community. Her door is always opened. She invites the community to call or email to discuss anything for betterment of our community. She went to the Presidents meeting of the Metropolis and based on discussions she notes that our community is at the forefront in how we conduct finances, audits and other church matters.

Mary announced that this is our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we will have an event in the hall. Save the date in October.

Elaine Noulis resigned from the Audit Committee. Penny Gallins will serve in unexpired term of Elaine.

Mary thanked Philoptochos and Lisa Constantelos for the coffee hour luncheon.

#### **Fr. Paul Christy Comments**

On the Feastday of the Holy Cross, Father commended Deacon Gavriilo for his heartfelt talk, noting that he spoke like an OT prophet. Father shared a hymn from Orthros. He discussed serving brunches at church on Sunday. Father will ask Michael Brewer to be involved in the anniversary brunch on October.

#### **Old Business:**

Chris Pappas reports that the directory photos are completed. We have a section for the church to produce—roster of names and phones and email lists. We also have 10 free pages for activities. The cost is \$100 per page over 10 pages. He had 16-18 pages, Parish Council provided \$200, therefore, some of the activity pages will come out of directory. 30 families submitted their own pictures at a charge of \$10 per family, which will be paid when directory is picked up.

#### **New Business:**

John Demos gave a stewardship update. We currently have 209 pledges for \$220,000, about \$20,000 ahead of last year. Please continue to prayerfully contribute. He thanked Amalia Kythas and Rob Shand for help with requests, as well as Bob Lyford, Harry Nicholas and our community.

Joanna Biliouris did a review of Parish Uniform Bylaws. Mary Winstead reported that the bylaws state that Parish Council is restricted to 1.5% of the current year budget for expenditures. Initial review does not show a restriction for transfer of funds between church accounts. (Discretionary shall be up to 1% of total budget.) Based on this Mary opines the transfer of funds by Parish Council from Festival to Property and Building and Capital Campaign was a proper transfer and invited anyone with a different opinion to so state.

It is noted that money is available for painting of the exterior of the church in Property and Facility Maintenance account.

John Fakiris recommends putting money in reserve for the kitchen renovation. He expressed concern that otherwise we will come back to vote and money may not be available. Bob Lyford reports that there is currently \$93,000 plus the \$50,000 transferred in 2017. Jason reports that \$20-30,000 has been left in the Festival Account which he feels will be available.

Rhonda Milkovich notes that Festival money is not guaranteed and that if festival is not successful, money will not be available. Jim Fakiris would like to proceed with renovation plans.

Bob offered his professional opinion that while funds given by donors to the Capital Building Fund are clearly restricted to use in connection with the new church, there may be some flexibility with regard to funds transferred from the Festival Fund to the Capital Building Fund.

A member suggested reaching out, door to door if necessary, to wealthy Greek Orthodox individuals- whether they are American, Jordanian, Lebanese, etc. Her former church in NY was successful with this approach. Mary Winstead assures her that a robust fundraising campaign will resume as Chris Pappas discussed.

Mary Winstead concludes by thanking her awesome Parish Council –a dedicated team and work together to get things done for our community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Wehbie, Parish Council Secretary

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Parish Secretary