

Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross
Minutes of the Spring General Assembly

Sunday, March 16, 2025

1. Call to order at: ~12:35 PM. ~45 attendees
2. Election of Assembly Chair
Motion to nominate Tom Mavrakakis M: Phil Louridas, 2nd: Pete Kolotorous. Motion passed unanimously
3. Approval of Minutes of Prior Assembly
Motion to pass minutes: Chris Canellos ; 2nd: Phil Louridas. Motion passed unanimously
4. Pastor's Report (Father Peter Salmas)
 - We are healthy and strong spiritually and growing as a parish. Lots of new faces in the past several months. Acknowledged Andrew as a great example of a new parishioner who is with us today.
 - Please welcome all new visitors to the parish. This can be done in many ways including by introducing them to all the ministries and other offerings that the church provides. Examples include; Bible Study – Monday, Studies in the Faith Class – Tuesday and Thursday, Catechism class on Wednesday. Handouts of these classes are also available.
 - This coming Thursday at 7 PM we will venerate the relic of the Holy Cross. This wonderful opportunity is expected to bring many visitors to our church, including from other faiths and we welcome everyone.
 - This coming Saturday at 9:30 AM we will host the Spiritual Odyssey with Rev. Dr. George Parsenios. He will speak on the concept of wisdom and how it leads the soul to God.
 - Father Manoli is on a youth retreat with ~80 youth from all over the Metropolis, including ~20 from Holy Cross.
5. President's Report (Jim Smith)
 - Welcome to Catherine Chala as a new member of the PC and to David Heller as Treasurer
 - We have a couple of issues that we need to address at Holy Cross;
 - (1) Maintenance and investment into our Buildings and Grounds due to the age of the campus
 - (2) Stewardship contributions need to increase to balance our annual budget.
 - For buildings and grounds issues, there are a few things you can do to help;
 - (1) Reach out to Dima Khoury or Jim.
 - (2) Volunteer to oversee contractors that are performing services.
 - (3) Donate to support the costs for these activities.

- We have raised ~\$400K of the \$500K Beautification goals. This is great progress and now we are asking for additional donations so that we can achieve or surpass our goal.
- There is additional iconography work that will be done. Please consider donating to support this effort.

6. Treasurer's Report (Phil Louridas, filling in for David Heller)

- Reviewed the 2024 Income, Expenses and Balance Sheet
- Our budget last year for Stewardship was \$850K and this year it is \$900K. If we can achieve this level of Stewardship commitment, the other income generating activities will allow us to grow the community and to care of our campus when issues arise.
- Thank you to the Audit Committee for completing their work this year. There were no significant deficiencies/findings.
- The Archdiocese determines the payment owed by allocating a certain percentage (in the case of Holy Cross, ~10+% of our expenses) to parishes across the Metropolis.
- Was there a ~\$50K misclassification for the Festival income?
- Please can we have a breakdown of the \$120K in Other Donations.
- What are the balances of the Funds (what restrictions apply and how they are being used, e.g., from the Benevolence Fund).

7. Committee Reports & Updates

a. Building and Grounds (Dima Khoury)

- Reviewed the Beautification project that were completed. For example, the slate replacement, trellis, painting and church entrance doors.
- Emergency projects were reviewed. For example, rodent control, 4 Kimmie Court french drain and Holy Cross kitchen freezer, fridge and stove.
- Should we have a Kitchen Committee that could train people that are using the kitchen so that we can minimize issues that require maintenance. This could be done by the Hall Committee.
- Acknowledge Dima for all the work that she's doing to maintain our campus.

b. Stewardship (Jim Smith)

- Reviewed the 2024 expectation that families committed to \$150/month from 500 families.
- Last year was our best Stewardship year however we are still trailing behind our Stewardship budget, and we are therefore running a deficit which becomes a large gap in the summer.
- Please continue to donate and remind and influence other parishioners to donate to this commitment

8. Parish Organization and Ministries Reports

a) Outreach (Virginia Coppock)

- Outreach continues to reach out to our local, national and international needs.

- The Outreach disbursements for 2024 were reviewed. A total of \$8,184.75 was collected. Including the \$1,546 collected for ORA Family-to-Family Sharing, a grand total of \$9,730.75 was collected in 2024.
 - Virginia is now 100 years old and having now fulfilled her 1999 pledge to lead this ministry until she was 100, she will retire and pass this leadership to Edie Christoforidis until another replacement is found.
- b) Philoptochos (Laura Jadelrab)
- Laura loves walking into The Oaks following Liturgy to see
 - The Philoptochos has been busy making our events engaging and building community. Examples of our efforts include: Christmas Tea, Vasilopita, Fashion Show. Donations/fundraising included but are not limited to the following causes:
 - \$7500 in HC community service award for our graduation seniors
 - \$1400 to Benevolence
 - \$17K+ to Kids and Cancer
 - \$2900 to Saint Basil Children's Home
 - \$2500 to LA Fires
 - Collectively totaling ~\$35K over the year
 - 11 new members have joined the Holy Cross Philoptochos Society
 - May 3rd Fashion Show theme will be Mediterranean Chic
- c) ORA (Matina Polakis)
- ORA now has 2 presidents (Matina and Mary). The ORA ministry is now 47 years old. There is now ~100 people in the organization. To join, you should be retired and the cost is only \$30/person. Examples of the organization's activities include book donations, board games.
- d) Youth Council & Young Adults (Paul Flocas on behalf of Kathy Roque-Albert)
- Offers a wide variety of activities (>10) for our youth.
 - Reviewed the list of different ministries.
 - There has been an increase in the number of acolytes, now at ~15-20.
 - Folk dance group is now one of the largest in the Diocese.
 - Examples of big fundraising events include the Glendis and Christmas Tree Lot.
 - Examples of funding include the Folk Dance Festival and GOYA Lent Retreat.
 - What is the estimate of total funds raised by Youth Council?
- e) Religious Education (Art Smith)
- The recent koliva-making event was well attended.
 - We have >100 kids in the Sunday School program and average attendance on a weekly basis has been increasing.
 - Saturday of Lazarus palm cross-making and Holy Friday are a couple of upcoming events for the Youth.

- f) Preschool (Tom Mavrakakis)
 - Enrollment is going well. The preschool nets ~\$50K. The main goal is to have the school contribute positively to the community and it is delivering on that goal. Acknowledge Chris Shreve for doing an excellent job.
 - g) Greek School (Katerina Chiotis)
 - It was a wonderful year with ~75 students including 8 new students and 4 new families.
 - They are self-sustained. Next year will be the 60th anniversary of this ministry to teach the Greek language and culture and promote our values to the new generations.
 - h) Choir (Chris Canellos)
 - The Choir is pleased to be serving the parish for ~70 years including on Sundays, Holy Week, weddings and other occasions, providing scholarships, hosting coffee hours.
 - Please encourage the young people in our community to join us.
9. New Business
- No new business was discussed
10. Nominations Committee
- Paul Flocas (M: Jim, 2nd Art)
 - Chris Frangos (M: Jim, 2nd Art)
 - Dimitry Fitzgerald (M: Jim, 2nd Art)
11. For the Good of the Order
- Following Easter, Chris will be reaching out for donations for ads for the Festival Program Book.
 - Summer Camp Greek village at Saint Nicholas Ranch is open again and Katerina encourages our youth to attend.

12. Adjournment & Closing Prayer

Motion to adjourn at 2:17: M: Art, 2nd: Jim