

Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross
Minutes of the FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Sunday, November 17, 2019 (v.11/19/2019)

- I. Call to order at 12:30 PM & Opening Prayer

- II. **Selection of General Assembly Chair**
 - A. Dave Heller nominates Ross Ritterman as chair. Phil Louridas seconds. All in favor. Ross accepts.

- III. **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**
 - A. Bill Danigelis motions to approve. Phil Louridas seconds. All in favor. Minutes approved as issued.

- IV. **Pastor's Report – Father Peter**
 - A. Since prior assembly, three key patriarchal changes occurred.
 - 1. His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros will likely be making some trips to the Bay Area
 - 2. His Eminence Metropolitan Nikitas elected Archbishop of Thyrateira and Great Britain. Good representation from Holy Cross at ceremony.
 - 3. His Grace Bishop Nektarios elected Archbishop of Australia.
 - B. During these next couple months, we should be thinking of Stewardship and make an offering for the benefit of our church community and to help us meet our budgetary demands. Encourages all of us to increase our gift to a minimum of \$125/month per family for 2020. Pledges can be made by mail and online.
 - C. Thank you to all that contributed to the Festival.
 - D. December 1 - we have opportunity to welcome Belmont community to begin celebration of Christmas season. Please invite friends.
 - E. Board of Seminary met last week and chose a chaplain. This is a good start and things are going well.
 - F. December 7 the Light the Path scholarship for our students will be held at the Cathedral of San Francisco. Please participate to help raise this scholarship fund.
 - G. Work at Ground Zero to fund the church continues.
 - H. March 14, 2020, we will be hosting a Human Trafficking conference at Holy Cross
 - I. Dr. Tanya Spirtos was elected to Speaker of the House for the California Medical Association. First time a woman has held this position in 150 years. Congratulations to Tanya.

- V. **President's Report – Anastacia Stamates**
 - A. Anastacia shared a story from Sunday School. We are blessed to have the school to enable conversations with our children that come with many questions about our faith. Stewardship is key to maintaining the school.
 - B. Over the past 4 years, we have been fortunate to receive donations to meet our annual budgets.

- C. The next big project that will require financial support is the replacement of the roof.

VI. Treasurer's Report – Phil Louridas

- A. Phil gave an update on status through Q3'19.
- B. The roof replacement costs were covered by donations. \$48K for The Oaks roof. \$55K for kitchen roof. The roof replacement comes with an ~30yr warranty.
- C. We had one significant donation of \$100K that had a significant impact to allow us to meet our budget.
- D. 2020 Budget
 - 1. Budget for 2020 includes a 9% increase. Mainly due to including roof. Without roof, increase if 4%. Mostly due to increase in Archdiocese assessment, salary, benefits etc.
 - 2. There is a significant \$50K increase in the Archdiocese tax. How is this calculated and is there any way to reduce? There was an increase from last year. We went from \$13K/month in 2018, to \$11K/month in 2019 which will now increase to \$14K/month. It is calculated based on expenses and allocated across parishes of Metropolis. The Metropolis of SF has larger expenses and hence the increase and then each parish is assigned a portion based on its expenses. For churches that cannot meet their allocation, the difference is assigned to other parishes in the Metropolis. We have met with the committee a few times but we do not know whether this will have any impact on our allocation. Every parish has received an increase. Holy Cross is not being singled out. We are a larger parish and therefore have a more significant increase (based on expense). Preschool and Greek School are not included in expense.
 - 3. There is money in the budget (\$35K) for emergency expenses (i.e., tree removal).
 - 4. Our Stewardship goal is \$125K/family (\$200K) and we have a line item to track this
 - 5. Festival only covers ~10% of budget
 - 6. Why is there such a significant difference between the Greek School income and the Preschool income? Phil was not part of the Greek School dialogue and could not answer.
 - 7. Bill Danigelis motion to approve the budget, second by Ted Zamenes, all approve. Budget approved as presented.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Stewardship

- 1. Anastacia spoke on Jim's behalf (Jim was absent)
- 2. Requests that everyone makes their Stewardship commitment promptly. Often easier to budget when payments are made automatically. We can help with online payments.
- 3. We are requesting \$125/month/family (assumes 500 of ~650 families). Notably, if the 500 families give this amount, we will still not completely cover budget.
- 4. Two reminders about Stewardship 2020:

- a. **Stewardship packets** will be available in the mail shortly. Please make every effort to make your Stewardship commitment promptly.
- b. Our **“Giving Goal”** for the parish is 500 families giving **\$125/month** which will be a big step towards eventually having Stewardship maintain all expenses for the parish.

B. **Festival** – **Anastacia Stamates** – (on behalf of Mary Clay who could not attend)

1. Gross was 404,037.04; Net was 140,532.24; %Profit = 34.78
2. 2019 Charity Donations
 - a. Notre Dame High School Scholarship Fund, Congregational Church of Belmont, Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation, My New Red Shoes, Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County, Samaritan House of San Mateo
 - b. We donate to Congregational Church of Belmont because we are using their parking lot
3.
 - a. Admission – stopped giving out free tickets. Captured \$3k more compared to last year.
 - b. Attendance – Estimated slightly down compared to last year by 1500 guests
 - c. Moved Deli – Good experiment, but did it really work?
 - d. Vendors – increased revenue by \$7k top line revenue
 - e. Clover – sent different machines.
4. Expenses need to be reviewed carefully and in detail.
 - a. Remained flat to 2018 but:
 - 1’. Up by \$20k from 2017 and \$30k from 2016
 - 2’. Need to turn this trend around
 - 3’. Critically review and analyze
 - a’. Procedures (if we don’t try, we won’t know)
 - b’. Volunteer force
 - c’. Goals and purpose
5. 2020! 50 years of “The Belmont Greek Festival” sharing our culture and food with the community.
 - a. How do prepare?
 - b. How do we make it special?
 - c. How do we celebrate 50 years?
6. Successful 2019 Festival debrief meeting
 - a. Refocus Festival Chair to Festival Committees
 - b. Fundraising
 - c. Volunteer
 - d. Contract, Permits, etc.
 - e. Procurement
7. January 2020
 - a. START planning
 - b. START fundraising

- c. START building volunteer base (the more people involved, the less each person takes on)
8. Please let us know if anyone is interested in helping. We need to get started in January 2020.
9. We need to increase fundraising. Chris Canellos suggests we all reach out to the various business we interact with to seek sponsorships. This is our 50th anniversary so a great opportunity for new/increased sponsorship. Ideally, we should have something in hand when talking to businesses about sponsorships.
10. There were questions on whether we are maximizing savings on procurement. Jim Smith (unable to attend) is the chair of procurement and questions/ideas should be directed to him.

IIX. Old Business

A. Nominations Committee

1. Elected at the Spring General Assembly: George Milanos, Matina Polakis, Daisy Fernando

B. Roof

1. The roof over The Oaks has been completed and paid for!
2. Next Spring, we will continue the campaign for the next phase--the roof over the kitchen.
3. The current estimate of \$55K for the kitchen roof may increase slightly if we don't lock in until next year.

IX. New Business

A. Election Committee

1. Elections will be held on Sunday December 8, 2019, following Divine Liturgy
2. Three parishioners are needed to staff the election table on December 8.
3. Lisa York has volunteered; Helen Valavanis; and Nicki Zarganis will staff the election table

B. Audit Committee

1. According to UPR we need 3 parishioners who are not members of the Parish Council to do the audit.
2. Nick Peros has volunteered. We need 2 others. Irene Pappas will help Nick. Emmy Denton volunteered, so we have three.

X. For the Good of the Order

- A. Ross Ritterman spoke about the December 1 Christmas season celebration
- B. Anastacia Stamates spoke about Family Sharing for Christmas. This year we will focus on 30 families.
- C. December 15 Philoptochos Christmas Tea and proceeds go to support Family Sharing.
- D. Christmas Tree Sales start Friday after Thanksgiving.

IX. Adjournment & Closing Prayer

A. 1:42 PM. Phil Louridas motion to adjourn. Nina Azar second. All in favor. Meeting closed. Closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Anastacia Stamates, Parish Council President AS:as/htm