

*Minutes for General Assembly held on May 21, 2017, the sixth Sunday of Pascha*

**Call to order**

Parish council Vice President Justin Griffing calls the meeting to order.

**Chair**

Nick Danigelis nominates Dr. Tampas as meeting Chair. Sotos Papaseraphim seconds. The motion carries.

**Quorum**

No quorum of stewards is established. The General Assembly will proceed as an informational meeting, but without any official actions being undertaken.

**Minutes**

Parish council Secretary Roy Barnes is designated to take minutes.

**Prayer**

Father Andreas leads the attendees in prayer.

**Pastoral report**

The pastoral report is presented by Fr. Andreas. Of special note is the fact that baptisms and chrismations occurred at four times the frequency of funerals. Additionally, there are now 100 stewards, an important success for the parish.

**State of the parish report**

1. Parish council President Georgia Maheras presents the report.
  - a. Approval of the prior general assembly minutes is not possible due to the lack of a quorum.
  - b. Georgia notes that certain one-time 2016 expenses, as well as some diocese-imposed expenses, have contributed to financial shortfalls in the current year.
  - c. There will be a June 4 fellowship barbecue. The barbecue will not function as a fundraiser.
  - d. It is expected that over the next approximate two to three years we will have to move parish moneys from unrestricted accounts to pay for operating expenses.
  - e. A chart is presented noting various accounts and associated account numbers and restrictions, styled as the "Rosetta Stone".
  - f. The Capital Improvement Survey will remain open. There have been fifteen responses.

## **Old business**

1. Nick presents the Pappas Planning Committee report.
  - a. The recommendation of the committee is that a significant portion of the moneys be placed in an endowment.
  - b. Theodora Contis discusses investment of current accounts
  - c. Archie Economou discusses investment of current accounts.
  - d. Roy asks whether or not the Pappas account is currently an unrestricted account. It is noted that the Pappas account is currently an unrestricted account.
  - e. Nick re-emphasizes the committee's suggestion that a significant portion of the account be placed in an endowment.
  - f. Sotos expresses concern about investment risk.

## **Stewardship committee**

1. Dave Hunt presents the Stewardship Committee report.
  - a. Dave notes that 100 stewards have pledged approximately fifty thousand dollars.
  - b. It is noted that there is a need for the total pledged amount to increase if the parish is to be properly funded.
  - c. Dave notes the need of prayer and evangelism as the parish manfully undertakes to meet this great challenge.
  - d. Nick asks for the median pledge. Dave will research this question.
  - e. George Bennis offers pertinent comments.
  - f. Theodora notes that working at church is part of stewardship.

## **Planning Committee**

1. Justin Young presents the Planning Committee report.
  - a. Justin notes that there is a three to four thousand dollar per month deficit in parish income compared to expenses.
  - b. The need for greeters and ushers is noted.
  - c. Community social events are discussed.
  - d. Targeted outreach to Orthodox no longer associated with the parish is discussed, as well as support of missions work.
  - e. The need for a church directory is noted.
  - f. Stewardship education is noted, especially clearly communicating the financial needs of the parish to all and communicating the obligation and privilege of the Orthodox to support the Lord's Church.
  - g. Justin notes that this will be a long process.
  - h. Vasilios Contis comments that Fr. Andreas should take leadership in stewardship matters.

- i. Justin refers to the Assembly of Orthodox Bishops document and notes that in comparisons between exemplary and non-exemplary parishes, the key feature in exemplary parishes is that of laity taking on leadership roles throughout the ministry.

### **Financial reports**

1. Audit Committee report.
  - a. Paul Michaelides and John Oleskiewicz note that they did not find anything in their audit which would suggest a misuse of funds.
  - b. Paul notes that there were instances of discrepancies between deposit slips and tally slips.
  - c. A lack of receipts for reimbursements is noted.
  - d. A lack of documentation for movement of moneys between accounts is noted.
  - e. The committee proposes that all information related to financials be made available in a central location.
  - f. Theodora notes certain discrepancies and Georgia speaks to her point.
2. Financial accounts update.
  - a. Vasilios Contis provides updates.
  - b. He notes that the low interest earned on the sizable Pappas account is a sin.
  - c. There is a continued need for account consolidation.
  - d. The festival account is discussed.
  - e. Vasili notes that 2016 expenses exceeded income by approximately eighty thousand dollars.
  - f. Justin notes an issue in the financial reports and Nick speaks to the issue.

### **Community Center update**

1. Theodora provides an update.
  - a. Various financial particulars are discussed and noted, including total investments of \$52,653.50.
  - b. It is noted that the parish owes the community center \$13,987.00.
  - c. A Community Center financial report signed by Theodora Contis, Nicholas Danigelis and Deborah Rorris is provided to the minute-taker.
  - d. Theodora seeks to clarify an issue with the Fall 2016 minutes. Lack of quorum precludes this action.

### **Philoptochos update**

1. Theodora provides an update.
  - a. An Easter financial gift is presented to the church from Philoptochos.
  - b. Ongoing Philoptochos work is discussed.

### **New Business**

1. Pews
  - a. Theodora notes an approximate thirty thousand dollar expense for new hardwood pews.
  - b. Paul asks if the pew issue is related to the Capital Improvement Survey.
  - c. Jackie asks if we have obtained three estimates, have we considered using local labor, will we actually require panel attachments on the pews, and should we consider replacing the carpet at the time that the pews are replaced?
  - d. Justin raises the possibility of having fewer pews and placing them against the walls.
2. Nectar discusses the need to winterize the windows, repairing areas of walls near windows, and repairing the cap above the bell tower.
3. Nick suggests that we need a separate assembly to discuss priorities.
4. The open house barbecue is discussed.
5. June 9-10 is designated a church cleaning day with special focus upon the back storage room.
6. There is a sign-up sheet to volunteer to work in the garden.

#### **Prayer and dismissal**

1. Father Andreas prays and the attendees are dismissed.

#### **Signatures**

Rev. Father Andreas Papayiannis

Georgia Maheras, Parish Council President

Roy Barnes, Parish Council Secretary

**May 21, 2017**

**Community Center Financial Report**

Account summary as of April 30, 2017

(Investments at the North Country Credit Union)

Regular Shares	\$	50.42
36 mo CD	\$	8,804.77
60 mo CD	\$	43,798.31
Total	\$	<u>52,653.50</u>
YTD earnings (as of April 30, 2017)		\$ 314.44

Earnings of 2016	\$ 855.57
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Note:

Money owed to the Community Center by the church since  
October 14, 1999 **\$ 13,987.00**

Respectfully,

The trustees:

Theodora Contis

Nicholas Danigelis

Deborah Rorris

