

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
Minutes of the General Assembly
Sunday, June 10, 2012

Call to Order: President Mark Langford called the Meeting to order at 12:17 p.m.

Opening Prayer: Father Paul Christy led us in prayer.

Appointment of Meeting Chairperson: Harry Costa nominated Mark Langford. Seconded by George Kapetanakis. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes: Connie Kledaras proposed, and Jason Kekas seconded, that we accept the minutes of the November 13, 2011, General Assembly. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Don McEnteer thanked all those attending for caring about our parish. The report is for the period ending April 30, 2012.

Revenues: YTD revenue at \$179,129 is favorable to budget by \$11K. Stewardship represents \$152,132 of this and is about \$15K favorable to budget through April. Avg. monthly rev. is \$44K (about \$2K over budget), but there's been a significant drop-off in May and the summer months are typically low.

Expenses: Total expenses at \$177,918 are over-budget by \$10K. However, budget numbers are 12-month averages, whereas some expenses are seasonal; the resulting over budget expenses will normalize during the year. Thus Supplies (Pascha: candles, flowers, church organ maintenance), Maintenance (mulching) and Insurance/Ministries (Archdiocese support, insurance, Clergy-Laity Conference) were all over budget.

Balance Sheet: We have nearly \$150K altogether in the Operating and Festival Accounts. The Capital Campaign Acct. has \$1,555,719. We are blessed to have a strong balance sheet, but the May income is down and this is also typical of the summer months.

Questions: Don said the Clergy Moving Expenses haven't been paid and remain a liability. Fotis Fotiu said the Night in Athens made \$5,395.40 net, 10% of which will go to the American Cancer Society. **Motion**, made by Dean Economy and seconded by Emma Paradesis, to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried. Mark thanked Don.

Stewardship: Don McEnteer spoke for John Demos, who sent his apologies. As of May 31, 2012, we have 250 pledging families for a pledged total of \$329,299 (avg. pledge \$1,318). We've already surpassed all of 2011 by almost \$15K (272 pledges, avg. pledge \$1,156). Our best year to date was 2008, when we received pledges totaling \$332,963. This year we expect to go beyond the \$3,700 needed to surpass that and make 2012 the new benchmark for Stewardship. The Stewardship Com. (John Demos – Chair, Tamara Costa, Mary Winstead, Mary Karam, Mary Wehbie, Elaine Noulis, Joanna Tillotson, Harry Russos, David Ford and Mark Langford) thanks our Parish Family for its generous giving. Please continue contributing toward your Stewardship and encourage those who haven't pledged to do so. Don thanked the Committee for its dedicated work. The results have been outstanding. Mark thanked Don.

6. Parish Business

a. Capital Campaign Update (75th Anniversary): George Pappas said we are reenergized. Our year of transition with the changes in priests is over. Our goal is to

have a groundbreaking on **Oct. 20, 2013**. We've some important dates before that too:

- **Oct. 20, 2012:** Our 75th Anniversary, a parish social event celebrating our first church in Raleigh, on Person St. (We've had services since 1924, but our first church building dates back to 1937.)
- **Oct. 21, 2012:** Commitment Sunday, when each family will either re-new or make their Capital Campaign pledge.
- **Dec. 31, 2012:** Completion of our Capital Campaign. All pledges should be in.
- **Jan. 28, 2013:** General Assembly to discuss our plans, post Capital Campaign.

We have received over \$3M in pledges, Festival transfers and donations, of which over \$1.5M is in the bank. We also have a dynamic Dreams-to-Reality team: the

- Building Exec. Com., chair George Pappas, with overview of everything;
- Capital Campaign Sub-Com., chair Penny Gallins, working hard to convince the 75% who haven't made a pledge to do so;
- Building Sub-Com., chair Chris Pappas, an expert in construction;
- Finance/Budget Sub-Com., chair Mark Langford, an expert in financing and good steward of our funds;
- Legacy & Endowment Sub-Com., chair Harry Costa, devoted to Holy Trinity, wants us to put HT in our will, as I (George) have done;
- Communications Sub-Com., chair George; I've designed a 6 ft. x 25 ft. poster for our Hall showing our new church's beautiful domed interior.

The Capital Campaign is driven not only by Penny but Fr. Paul. He is its heart. We have \$3M (in pledges, transfers & donations). We still need some big commitments to reach our \$6M goal, but we know we can get there.

Discussion followed about why we should be optimistic & positive about our project:

- We built our first two churches during economic Depressions;
- Earlier generations made the effort for us - we should do the same for our children and for those who come after us;
- It's our Faith – it's worth whatever it takes;
- Only 25% families have pledged, but we are at 50% of our goal;
- You've got to have faith – donors materialize, as was the case with the choir loft;
- We recently got \$100,000 from someone who isn't even in our parish.

Fr. Paul: Comments: I've asked myself "Is the church a business?" and have gone back and forth, but I know that while you can't put hope in your budget, hope is a virtue and a legitimate line item in your spiritual bank account. Things can look horrible but then suddenly improve. Presbytera Mary was very sick when she was pregnant with Daniella, but one day, when she felt a bit better, she insisted they visit a parishioner called Maria, who two weeks later won \$30m in the lottery! We need 100% participation in this building project. David Ford made a good point when he said 25% have created 50% of what we need. 25% is not sufficient to build a church. We must ALL be part of this. Do we deserve this new church, as I said in our last General Assembly? The 25% definitely do. The city of Raleigh does – it is an important city in the US and it should have a beautiful Byzantine church. Our children deserve it. Well, let me ask THEM.

Catherine Mathes, do you kids deserve it? Catherine: yes, because we are sitting on the floor in Sunday School, the church is crammed, and people are watching the Liturgy on TV in the Hall. We should all be praising God together. Kyriaki Klemes, how are we going to fund it? Kyriaki: everyone should make a sacrifice; take a break before getting a new pair of shoes. Father concluded by thanking the girls, and George asked them if they would like to be on one of the committees! Mark thanked Fr. Paul and George.

b. 1937 French Drive Update: Don McEnteer spoke for Leon Kythas, who's at a wedding. The house is finished. It's stunning, as we can see from the photos. George Kapetanakis did an outstanding job. (George interjected, saying many people worked on it.) The committee that was set up to assess the feasibility of our options for the house (Leon Kythas - Chair, Eve Kantner, George Kapetanakis, Don McEnteer, Roberta Stavredes, David Ford, Jim Klemes, Joyce Mandikos) decided we should rent it: we've spent \$43K on renovations. The com. reduced a list of 15 property mgt. companies to 3 (Real Living Pittman Properties; HRW Realty; and VG Murray & Co.), drew up contract requirements (no pets, frequent inspections etc.) and estimated, through a comparative analysis, that we could expect rental income in the \$1,250-1,500 range. Interviews with the 3 finalists led to the selection of Lisa Holmes with HRW Realty. She expects our rent to be in the \$1,350-1,500 range and will charge a 7% mgt. fee. Discussion followed. Sydney Langford said rentals are very good right now: we should get a tenant quickly. Mark thanked Don.

c. Audit Committee Report: Tom Mathes said that Presbyter Mary and Kevin Stavredes also served on the committee. It looked at income & expenditure, profit & loss, church accounts, insurance, and the Parish Council's financial procedures on Sundays. It found no major discrepancies, just some minor errors. Rhonda does a superhuman job, one for 3 or 4 people. The Committee has one recommendation: scholarships should have their own accounts and no longer be handled through the church's accounts. There's been no malfeasance, but the traceability of scholarship disbursements has been inadequate. We recommend that the trustees of each scholarship set up a separate account and be responsible for disbursements. However, one single fund independent of the church is another possibility. Harry Costa suggested the Parish Council consider the matter. Mark said it's on the Agenda. Tom thanked the other committee members. Mark thanked Tom.

d. Festival Update: Harry Costa said 40-50 people attended the recent Festival meeting. There will be some changes in 2012: Sun. closing is at 6 p.m. not 7; baklava sundaes will be \$5 not \$4; galaktoboureko on Fri. & Sat., not Sat. & Sun; there's no bookstore this year, but there is a Church booth; lemonade is moving to Drinks; no pork gyros; new item: individual pizzas, cheese \$5, other two \$7 each. Change is coming: NC's Environmental Health Services is adopting national standards over the next 2 years: gloves must be worn and a trained environmental manager will have to be onsite at all times, the penalty being a 2-point permit rating deduction. We need this permit for our Pre-School. We could buy food instead of preparing it, but this would cost more. We could eliminate the Festival altogether, but then everyone would have to cough up \$500 (not an option). Besides, Raleigh loves it. Harry has enjoyed (most of) it. We get to laugh and have fun. He will run it through 2013, his 8th year. It should have two Chairs. Work lasts Jan.- Sept. 17,000 people came through last year. Harry has documented how to do everything: price tag, \$1m to the Capital Campaign!

e. By-laws Committee: Jason Kekas said that this committee (that he co-chairs with David Ford) was formed because our Bylaws need to be updated. (Members: Mary Helen Winstead, Tamara Costa, Mark Langford, Toulia Capetanos, Katerina Knezevic and George Kapetanakis). The last time this was done was in 2005. The By-laws also need to be aligned with the Archdiocese ones. We have had our first meeting, but you can still join us. Our By-laws are on our Holy Trinity website, but the Archdiocese ones are not.

f. Nominations for Election Committee: The following were nominated: Tamara Costa, Frances Mathes; Meg Economy; Matena Costakis. The motion to accept the nominations carried. Mark asked Tamara to continue to chair the committee.

Old Business:

- Harry Kledaras asked for clarification about Clergy Moving Expenses. Don said they are still potential expenses.
- Jennifer Sullivan asked whether all the roof repairs etc. have been completed. Mark said yes.

New Business:

- George Kapetanakis asked how come nothing was done about the pews: they need to be renovated. Rhonda said other things have priority, such as the Sunday school wing and the ceiling in the Fellowship Hall. Roberta Stavredes said the rust stains on the Lead Mine entrance wall need to be removed. Connie Kledaras made a motion, seconded by Rhonda, that we form a committee to find out what needs to be done. He did not accept George Kapetanakis' proposed amendment that we allow up to \$35,000 in renovations and repairs. The motion carried.
- Connie said the Parish Council should be commended and congratulated for all their hard work.

Adjournment: Harry Costa made a motion to adjourn.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Paul led us in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen Perros