

**ST. SPYRIDON GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL – GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2000**

The Parish General Assembly began at 1:00 p.m. There was a quorum as there were 56 parish members attending. Fr. Dean opened the assembly meeting with a Prayer.

Election of Chairperson: Chris Lekas nominated Michael Constantinou as the Chair- person. The nomination was 2nd and carried by the rest of the assembly.

Priest's Report: Fr. Dean spoke on continuing his calling in our congregation. He also spoke of the importance of not getting bogged down in mundane matters. Father spoke of the importance of proving that we are a progressive, lively parish; and also of the impor- tance of preserving the legacy of our church for those who follow.

Previous Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the past General Assembly meeting were presented. Phil Fotiadis motioned to accept the corrected minutes as complete. George Kalogeropoulos 2nd the motion and the motion passed.

Review of Motions from June G/A:

1. Recommendation that I.F.F. contributions are transferred at the end of each quarter, or if at any time the amount being held in the I.F.F. account is in excess of \$2,500. Dino Charalambides reports \$12,000 has been transferred.
2. Recommendation that the collection and review of the Cathedral Memorial Fund's original documents. If documents do not exist, rules should be developed for their reg- ulation. Dino Charalambides reports that the process has begun. The Bellos Fund was the first; The Kassos Fund is the next. They will be working back through all the funds.
3. Recommendation that the Investment Committee discuss and report the activities for all Church funds, not only the Endowment Fund; there are currently several bank/ memorial funds under the Church's supervision which have not been actively looked into regarding transfers to other banks, return on investment, etc. Dino Charalambides reports that Merrill Lynch has been implemented to keep track of the Bellos' estate monies.
4. Transfer \$13,881 from Cathedral checking account back to the Endowment fund Income for excess used for the 1999 ¼-Year Budget Deficit. Dino Charalambides reports this has been done.
5. The following recommendations made by the Deficit Study Committee were con- sidered;
 - a. Wedding fees have been increased by \$50.00, from \$200 to \$250 (for members), and from \$300 to \$350 (for non members); Baptism fees have increased \$25.00, from \$150 to \$175 (for members), and from \$250 to \$275 (for non members).

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- b. Increase Greek School tuition by \$50/child (current fees are \$150 for first child and \$100 for each additional child (for members), and \$225 for first child and \$125 for each additional child (for non members); the Council did not approve;
- c. Consideration of developing an afternoon session for Nursery School was considered by the Nursery School Committee and the Council and was deemed not feasible;
- d. A reduction in telephone expenses by going from an “unlimited” service to a “measured” service. This has become part of the office upgrade. Also part of the office upgrade, a DSL high-speed Internet link is being looked into. Hopefully this will be completed by the end of the year.

Council President’s Report: President Maminakis spoke of this being his last report before the General Assembly. He wished to thank Father Dean, the church parishioners and the office staff for their support and assistance. He spoke of a very successful Festival and Golf Tournament and thanked the chairpersons and volunteers for both events.

Treasurer’s report: Dino Charalambides offered his report and walked the assembly through the Grecian Festival summary. He mentioned that the late start on preparing for the festival seems to be a downfall and that we need to get started sooner on planning.

The Interim Treasurer’s Report (unaudited) was presented by Dino and he and walked the assembly through the report. He highlighted the summary of funds. He noted that the church is doing well up to now. Hopefully the Thanksgiving and Christmas receipts will carry the church through the rest of the year.

A motion was made to accept the report by Chris Lekas and 2nd by Aris Felis. Motion passed.

Stewardship Report: President Steve Maminakis reported on the Stewardship Committee. He reported that receipts for September are \$131,777; receipts through October are \$144,077, about \$10,000 under. November receipts are \$12,546 (as of 11/10), which are up, with a \$15,000 per month average.

President Maminakis spoke on stewardship and the need to be more aggressive with the community. He was concerned about and noted that when the next Council is installed we must find out why a stewardship statement is not mailed out to parishioners, and a report is to be given to the General Assembly on the next meeting.

Air Conditioning Committee Report: Presvytera Cynthia requested that discussion of the Air Conditioning project be moved up on the agenda, which was carried unanimously

by the assembly.

The assembly regarded reasons for the increased cost of the project which raised some questions. Jim Bazoukas reported that problems with the structure of the building and dif-

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faculty adjusting the A/C equipment to the building made it necessary to change the plans, which increased the cost from the original \$250,000 to \$488,524, three years later.

A discussion of supplemental appropriation of additional funds to complete the project followed.

Two proposals were presented to the assembly:

- Proposal #1**...\$125,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund
 \$ 25,000 from Grecian Festival Account
 \$ 18,000 from the Bellos Fund
 \$ 50,000 from additional fundraising (\$20,000 has been raised already).
- Proposal #2**...\$125,000 from Capital Improvement Fund
 \$100,000 loan with a fundraiser to retire the debt ASAP

Proposal #2 could not be done per Mr. Moschos, our legal counsel, as we are not allowed to incur debt. Proposal #1 was discussed. Loukia Bitzas motioned that the project be funded as to Proposal #1. Presvytera Cynthia 2nd the motion. A discussion followed. George Fotiades suggested an amendment to Loukia Bitzas' motion, which follows:

- \$ 4,000 from the Endowment Fund
- \$ 18,000 from the Bellos' Interest
- \$ 118,000 from Capital Improvement
- \$ 45,000 from Grecian Festival
- \$ 185,000 Total**
- \$ 10,000 from returning excess house funds
- \$ 20,000 in understood donation for the A/C project

For a total of **\$ 215,000** to cover the increased cost of the A/C project.

An additional fundraiser to be used to supplement the A/C Fund for excess expenses and if possible negate the use of interest from the Bellos' Fund. Mr. Moschos moved the question, Loukia Bitzas 2nd. A vote was taken: 39 hands rose for the project: 6 hands rose in opposition. The Assembly moved to have the Council move as soon as possible on the project.

Deficit Reduction Report: Arthur Lagadinos reported and the Deficit Reduction Committee Report is included with these minutes.

Youth Committee Report: Chairman Michael Constantinou read the Youth Committee

Report by Andrew Constantinou. Andrew spoke of the success of the last lock-in retreat. He also spoke of how successful the GOYA program has been, also of the high attendance by our parish youth. Andrew also spoke about the new JOY Program and of the successful attendance and parent participation.

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Sunday School Report: Michael Constantinou spoke of the increase in enrollment in the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. He reports that 75% of our parish children attend Sunday school, something other churches should be envious of. He also reports that our parish has the strongest involvement in the Oratorical Program.

Election Committee Report: Elections will be held on Sunday, November 19th, immediately following Sacraments. The election will end at 2:00 p.m. President Maminakis wished to add his apologies for the letter regarding the election never having been mailed.

Shrewsbury Land Committee: Mr. Moschos reports that a shrine was never erected on the property. There may be a possibility that the church may have to pay some taxes as a result.

NEW BUSINESS: AGENDA MOTIONS:

- a. That the Stewardship Committee shall consist of seven members; the Parish Council President and six members appointed by the Parish Council President shall serve on a staggered basis of three years. This would require that the President of every new administration would appoint two members to the Stewardship Committee to replace the two whose three-year appointments would have expired the year before. The President of the Parish Council would also, on a year-to-year basis, appoint the Chairperson of the Stewardship Committee. Loukia Bitzas 2nd the motion. George Fotiades moved for an amendment. That the proposed Stewardship Committee above be identified as the Parish Council Stewardship Committee. After ensuing discussion, it was agreed that the above Stewardship Committee is a committee of the parish, and that in addition, the Parish Council could have its own Stewardship Committee. After this clarification, proposed amendment was withdrawn. An additional amendment was proposed that "the purpose of this newly formed Parish Committee shall be to foster stewardship and especially to increase stewardship contributions to eliminate the operating deficit. This new parish Stewardship Committee shall report its progress to the Spring and Fall General Assemblies." The amendment was accepted by President Maminakis. A motion was made to move the question. Vote was 25 for the motion as amended, 1 opposed.
- b. To initially implement motion a. above, a further motion is proposed that the 2001 Parish Council President appoint two members to serve a 1-year term, two to serve a 2-year term and two to serve a 3-year term. So moved. Vote taken, 25 for and 1 opposed.
- c. That a committee be formed, to be established by the General Assembly, to renovate the Cotsidas Auditorium which will include installing air-conditioning/climate control and making our Auditorium more viable for weddings and baptisms. The Committee will also make proposals after its research on how the project will be funded. President Maminakis tabled the motion.
- d. Dealt with earlier in this report.

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- e. A motion was made by President Maminakis that every year a letter be sent to our parishioners requesting that they equally contribute a specified amount to make up the projected deficit of the previous year's budget if a deficit exists. No one 2nd this motion, and thus it did not pass.
- f. Dino Charalambides presented the F/Y 2001 Budget. A discussion of the 2001 Budget line items followed:
1. President Maminakis motioned that the Greek School tuition be raised \$200, from \$150 for the first child and \$150 from \$125 per additional children, for the 2001- 2002 school season. A vote was taken, 7 votes for the increase, 15 votes opposed to the increase. The motion was defeated.
 2. A motion by President Maminakis to increase Fr. Dean's salary was put on hold.
 3. A motion by President Maminakis to consider Line #1 of the 2001 Budget. An increase was motioned for the Cathedral wages from \$183,700 to \$186,700; the motion was 2nd by George Fotiades. A vote was taken, 12 votes for the increase, 7 votes opposed to the increase. The motion passed.
 4. A motion from Dino Charalambides to keep the line item for the total Youth Committee Expenses at \$5,000, instead of lowering it to \$3,500. Phil Fotiadis 2nd the motion. A vote was taken, with a unanimous vote of 17 for the \$5,000 total. Motion passed.

These changes to the 2001 F/Y Budget changed the Budget deficit to \$57,100 from \$52,600. A motion was made to approve the Budget as amended. 2nd and passed.

- g. A motion was made that the interest income from the Endowment Fund be used to balance the 2001 deficit up to \$57,100. Nick Tzoumbas 2nd the motion and it passed.
- h. That \$2,240 be reallocated from the Rewiring of the Main Chandelier Project of 01/01/99 to the balance of the Capital Improvement Fund. Approved as motioned.
- i. That \$2,585 be reallocated from the Restoration of the other Chandelier Project of 6/14/99 to the balance of the Capital Improvement fund. An amendment was made to reallocate and keep \$800 in this project appropriation to complete the Chandelier Project, and return the difference of \$1,785 to the Capital Improvement Fund. Phil Fotiadis 2nd the motion as amended. Moved to question; 4 voted for, 2 opposed. Motion passed.
- j. To allocate \$302 from the Capital Improvement Fund to the Cathedral Restoration project. Dino Charalambides and President Maminakis rescinded this motion.

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- k. To allocate the \$2,200 that the General Assembly allocated for the building of a shrine on the Shrewsbury Property donated by Dr. Kentros back to the Grecian Festival Fund. Approved as motioned.
- l. To allocate \$410 back to the Grecian Festival Fund from the Shrewsbury Engineering Study. Approved as motioned.
- m. To allocate \$18 back to the Grecian Festival Fund from the Additional Youth Committee allocation of 6/10/99. Approved as motioned.

NEW BUSINESS: RESOLUTIONS:

Loukia Bitzas wanted to know if Lisa Ayotte was ready to assume the responsibility of doing the bookkeeping for the Cathedral. It was reported that Lisa was not yet comfortable with assuming these responsibilities as yet.

A Resolution by Mr. Moschos that the Cathedral continue funding for a second priest and that the Parish council explore the possibility of employing another full time priest. Phil Fotiadis 2nd the motion. The motion was passed. A resolution by Loukia Bitzas, that the Parish Council review office financial procedures and a consolidation of services. Aris Felis 2nd the motion. The motion was passed.

The General Assembly considered the date of the next G/A meeting. A motion was made by George Fotiades that the G/A dates never fall on Easter dates and that they fall within the first 14 days of April and the first 14 days of November. George Stephanou 2nd the motion. The motion was passed.

Aris Felis made a resolution that the G/A follow the order of the Agenda. That no items would be considered out of order. The Assembly carried the resolution.

A motion to adjourn was made by George Fotiades and was 2nd by Steve Maminakis.

Respectfully Submitted, Cheryl G. Economos, Recording Secretary