

SAINT SPYRIDON CATHEDRAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
DECEMBER 18, 1996

The meeting of the St. Spyridon Cathedral General Assembly held on Thursday, December 18, 1996, was called to order at 7:20 P. M. by the Parish Council President, Loukia S. Bitzas.

Fr. Dean Paleologos, Dean of the Cathedral, opened the meeting in prayer and the announcement of the untimely death of Fr. George Stephanides. Fr Stephanides named was commemorated in prayer.

Fr. Dean addressed the gathering with a brief report outlining his beliefs in reconciliation, love and forgiveness based on faith.

Chris Lekas declined his nomination to serve as Chair of the meeting. Chris Dionis was nominated by Chris Lekas. On a second by Vaso Economos the nomination was voted.

Loukia Bitzas, Parish Council President, presented her report. She thanked Fr. Dean and Fr. Nick for their guidance through the year, she thanked the members of her Parish Council and everyone who through the year offered assistance and service to the Cathedral. She outlined some of the programs put into effect during her year in office.

At the time of the Treasurer's Report, George Fotiades moved to table the report since the Auditing Committee had not audited the books. On a second by Chris Lekas the reading of the report was tabled.

Charles Tanionos, Budget Committee member, presented the Budget Committee Report. It was ruled by Demitrios Moschos, our legal council, that this presentation is acceptable since the committee acts as an agent of the Parish Council. It is modest and reasonable subject to the review of the General Assembly.

The Budget Committee recommends that the Parish Council consider Stewardship the most important project on their agenda. Make it an ongoing not a one time drive, but a year long sustained effort. This is imperative as our annual deficits are not a one time occurrence. They happen year after year approximating \$35,000.00. Further, that the basic contribution from each person should approximate \$200.00. With 1250 contributing members this stewardship would generate or approximate \$250,000.00 or \$75.00 more in revenue. This would eliminate the deficit and give the church flexibility to allow and provide more innovative

programs for our community.

Sam Sotir moved the acceptance of the budget as presented. Seconded by Chris Lekas. Discussion followed and the following amendments were accepted: George Fotiades moved that Stewardship be increased to \$200,000.00. On a second by Demitrios Moschos the increase was accepted.

James Bazoukas moved that Utilities be increased to \$31,500.00. On a second by James Pialtos the increase was accepted.

James Bazoukas moved to lower Office Expenses to \$18,500.00. On a second by James Pialtos the motion was defeated.

The bookkeeper is authorized to correct the proposed budget to include the accepted changes and the amount to be transferred from the Grecian Festival checkbook to be adjusted accordingly. This was moved by George Fotiades and seconded by Charles Tanionos. Accepted.

Nickolas Moudios announced the donation of land by Dr. George Kentros. It is located in Shrewsbury on Gold Street and Route 140. It is virgin land. It is free and clear. A visual search was done. It is free and clear. Dr. George Camougis, an environmentalist will research the property as to Chapter 120(?) free of charge.

Nicholas Moudios moved that the Saint Spyridon Cathedral accept the 17 acres of land in Shrewsbury subject to an environmental clearance by Dr. Camougis. Seconded by Helen Panagiotou and passed.

Loukia Bitzas presented a proposal for future elections. She moved that for future elections provisions be made for mail-in absentee ballots. Seconded by Charles Fotos and passed.

The following were nominated to serve on the Election Committee for the 1997 Parish Council Elections: Stelios Bitsakis, Demetra Blake, George Fotiades, Charles Fotos, James John, Chris Lekas, Arthur Mallios, Betty Morgan, James Pagonis, James Pialtos and Matthew Panagiotou. Election of the committee was moved, seconded by Sam Sotir and passed.

It was moved by Dr. Athan Savas, seconded by that the same Auditing Committee be elected to serve in 1997 with the addition of Betty Morgan and Charles Tanionos. The Committee reads as follows: Anna Cocaine, George Fotiades, Charles

Fotos, Chris Johns, Betty Morgan, and Charles Tanionos.

It is suggested that the Election Committee formulate a method to notify those elected.

George Fotiades moved that minutes of the General Assembly be included in the church bulletin. On a second by Nicholas Moudios the motion was passed.

Motion was made by Dalton Respass, seconded by George Fotiades that the Parish Council's actions be published in the church bulletin subject to privacy rights. Further that the names of the Parish Council members who were present also be published.

Further, it is recommended that the Parishioners be informed of the financial situation of our cathedral.

In closing Chris Dionis, Chair, spoke to Father Dean and thanked him for ministering to us in the finest way possible and that he continue to remain with us for the next 15 years. Father Dean approached the dais to a standing ovation.

The closing prayer was offered and the assembly was adjourned at 9:30 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa B. Sampson, Gen. Sec.