



St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Cathedral

REV. FR. DEAN N. PALEOLOGOS
DEAN

Minutes: General Assembly, May 23, 2004

Start: 12:45 p.m.

Opened with the Christos Anesti Prayer, given by Nick Paleologos.

Quorum was reached with 56 parishioners present, 53 signed in the ledger.

Attendees representing the Parish Council: William Kiritsy, Dimitrios Vasiliadis, George Maniatis, Anastasia Efstratios, Sideris Angelou, Petros Athanasiou, Dr. Demetrios Galanis, Tina Neidbala, Luckie Raptis, George Regan, Dean Stamoulis.

Not Present: Fr. Dean Paleologos, Dr. Dimitrios Angelis, Aris Felis, Demostenes Kaloudelis, Anastasios Karamanakis

President's Introduction: William Kiritsy

Message: Provide a bright future for generations to follow.

Nomination/Election of a Chairperson:

Dimitrios Vasiliadis nominated Nick Moudios as chair, seconded by Dino Charalambides. Nomination passed unanimously.

Approval of January 4, 2004 General Assembly Minutes:

Nick Moudios asked everyone to read the minutes. Dino Charalambides moved to accept them. Tina Neidbala seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

President's Report: William Kiritsy

- Congratulated George and Sophie Fotiades for receiving the Clergy Laity Award.
- Reviewed highlights from the first half of the year.
- Short-term goals summary:
 - o Improve communications with Parish and organizations through print and online channels and events:
 - Greek School Vasilopita, Bellos Award Dedication, Miliotis Center event, Festival, Nursing Home Fund Raiser, Sunday of Orthodoxy, State House Celebration of Greek Independence Day, Wine Tasting.
 - o Strengthen and support ministries such as youth, which parishioners have done with the resurrection of the dance group thanks to Dino Charalambides and the Little Angels.
 - o Establish a Web site, which launched in February and is being continuously updated. We hope to use this as a means to reduce publication costs.
 - o Create a computer lab for all Cathedral organizations to use. We are working on this.
 - o Support the festival to ensure profitability and success for the Cathedral. This is in progress.
 - o Hire a full-time second priest to off-load the intense responsibility on Fr. Dean. These discussions have begun.
 - o Lower the deficit and increase stewardship by 30%. We are working on ways to increase our communications about stewardship. We have determined a "suggested pledge" amount for people who inquire about how much to give.
- Long-term goals summary:
 - o Develop a five-year plan to build a Youth/Senior Center. You will see activity on this in the near future. Presented the structure of the Youth/Senior Center Committee.
 - o Sustain the operating budget from stewardship. If we reach our stewardship goal, all fees and collections will be allocated toward outreach programs and philanthropy.
 - o Increase Endowment Fund by 50% within five years to \$5 million.





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Stewardship Report: Dimitrios Vasiliadis

- Overview of Stewardship Committee accomplishments:
 - o First goal: Profile the parish. Identify which parishioners pledge and how much they pledge, as well as identify those who do not pledge and outreach to them.
 - Dino Charalambides, William Kiritsy and I went through all the names and numbers in the Cathedral database.
 - As of year end 2003, there are 1,397 individual parishioners in the database.
 - Of these, 847 pledge, giving a combined total of \$192,000.
 - There are 500 inactive parishioners who do not give at all.
 - Only 60% of the parishioners in the database give.
 - Of the parishioners that give, 26% give \$100 or less and only 11% give \$300 or more. These are true numbers based on the latest Cathedral computer records.
 - o Second goal: Determine a "suggested pledge" amount or "protinoumenon poson" to communicate to families and seniors to cover the operating budget of the Cathedral.
 - o Third goal: Communicate frequently with all parishioners through the *Stewardship News*, letters, and phone calls. Thanks to Christina Andrianopoulos for her work producing this publication.

Audit Committee Report: George Fotiades

- Will make recommendations after the 2003 budget report is given.

Treasurer's Report: George Maniatis

- Thanked Meg Tsambouniery for her great work preparing the reports.
- Thanked Charlie Fotos and auditing team as well as Chris Fourkas for their efforts.
- The Cathedral has \$1,007,440 in the Endowment Fund as of close of business Friday, May 21, 2004.
- Opened Capital Improvement Fund.
- The deficit from 2003 was \$74,500.
- Grecian festival profits from 2002 were \$79,000. The Parish Council withdrew \$16,300 to pay for new desks and chairs.
- Diversified investment strategy and expanded outlook to 15 years. These strategies will be detailed in the next report.
- Motioned to approve report, but was not seconded due to necessity to hear Audit Committee recommendations.

Audit Committee Report: George Fotiades

- Recommendations:

THE AUDIT COMMITTEE MAKES THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Recommend that the Investment Committee report at the next General Assembly the strategies used to invest various church funds: this was put forth as a recommendation on two previous occasions.
- 2) Recommend transferring to the Capital Improvement Fund the \$800.00 remaining balance of the Chandelier Restoration Donation from the Grecian Festival Fund.
- 3) Recommend transferring the remaining \$1550.00 of parishioner donations towards the tables and chairs purchased in 2003 from the Cathedral Exchange Account to the Grecian Festival Account.
- 4) Recommend that the Parish Council develop a specific policies for procurement, including 'the three bid rule' to the next General Assembly.
- 5) Recommend the transfer of \$2000.00 from the Bellos Memorial Fund to the Youth/Senior Center Fund when established. Money to be used to underwrite a fundraising event.
- 6) Recommend appropriating \$2759.00 for The Bellos Memorial Plaque; \$1000.00 of which to come from The Grecian Festival Account, \$1759.00 to come from The Bellos Memorial Fund.
- 7) Recommend transferring back to the Grecian Festival Fund the unused portion of the 2003 deficit appropriation of \$3900.00.





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George Fotiades moved to accept the 2003 financials with the above recommendations, seconded by Dino Charalambides. The motion was voted on and passed.

New Business Agenda Motions:

- Lukia Bitzas motioned to reorder the agenda items and move A. Second Priest to the top of the list. Seconded by Charlie Fotos.

A. Second Priest

Motion to approve the allowance of capital for hiring a second priest by January 2005. An additional amount of \$35,000.00 is required for the hire of a second priest or deacon.

- George Maniatis presented this motion, seconded by Dr. Mike Christakis.
- Discussion:
 - o George Fotiades said \$35,000 is a light estimate. This issue has been discussed and debated for 35 years. Asked about benefit package and home allowance.
 - o George Maniatis informed the GA a) budget dollars have already been allocated for the hire of a youth director, which has been tabled and b) the topic has been raised with Fr. Dean, who is beginning to embrace the idea. The target date for this second hire would be 2005.
 - o Nikolas Moudios asked what the Cathedral pays Fr. Clapsis, which is \$15,000 and that he would need to understand that his services would not be needed once this hire was made. George Maniatis informed the GA his salary would also fund the hire of the second priest.
 - o Charlie Fotos said the motion is misleading as it currently reads.
 - o The bottom line cost to hire a second priest for the Cathedral is \$55,000: \$20,000 would come from existing funding sources, and the Cathedral would need an additional \$35,000.
 - o Demetrios Moschos clarified this is a policy issue. These are the funds needed to add to the existing funds. We are authorizing the second priest; we need to appropriate funds.
 - o There should be two motions: to authorize the hiring of a full-time priest or deacon and to appropriate funds toward the salary count by adding an additional \$35,000.
 - o Demetrios Moschos further clarified: to introduce this concept, you need authorization. If George Fotiades and William Kiritsy want to be active and go to the Diocese today, they need the authorization and funds.
 - o The motion should be about authorizing a second priest or member of the clergy and appropriating funds for 6 months (from July 1 to December 1) and securing a source for those funds.
 - o Loukia Bitzas asked if this is a Liturgical problem.
 - o Michael Dionis said a deacon would help with ministries. Dr. Mike Christakis preferred a priest to help with sacraments.
 - o Demetrios Moschos ultimately recommended bifurcating the motion:

- Revised Motion:

A. Second Priest:

- o Motion to authorize the Parish Council to hire a second full-time priest or deacon.
- o Nikolas Moudios presented the revised motion, seconded by Loukia Bitzas, it passed unanimously.
- o Motion to appropriate \$15,000 from the Bellos Memorial Interest Account to fund the salary for the hiring of a second priest or deacon for the remaining budget year 2004.
- o Demetrios Moschos presented this motion, seconded by George Fotiades and it passed unanimously.

B. Youth/Senior Center

Motion to establish a Youth/Senior Center Building Fund. All proceeds from events, donations, gifts, and grants for the Youth/Senior Center Building Fund shall be designated for this building project and placed into the Youth/Senior Center Building Fund. Once there is General Assembly (GA) approval for this Fund, the Fund shall only be used for the express purpose of building the Youth/Senior Center building project. The Parish Council shall establish an annual budget to be submitted and approved by the GA. All excess funds shall be invested in accordance with the Investment Committee By-laws. If groundbreaking of the Youth/Senior Center Building has not begun prior to December 31, 2015, all remaining funds shall be reallocated to the principal of the Endowment Fund.





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- Dimitrios Vasiliadis presented the original motion, seconded by Lucky Raptis.
- After numerous amendments to the original, the final motion was presented by Demetrios Moschos and seconded by William Kiritsy, and it passed unanimously.
- A total of \$13,000 will be transferred to this account, including:
 - o \$2,000 from the Bellos Fund for a feasibility study;
 - o \$10,000 from the Wine Tasting event; and
 - o \$1,000 donated by a parishioner, Katerina Kambosos.

C. Balanced Budget

Motion to approve a Balanced Budget Amendment into the by-laws requiring the Parish Council to submit, and the General Assembly to approve, an annual balanced budget. No funds except those that are gifted, bequeathed, or contributed by a donor, shall be deposited into the Endowment Fund until a balanced budget is approved.

- William Kiritsy presented this motion, seconded by Dimitrios Vasiliadis.
- George Fotiadis motioned to table agenda motions C. Balanced Budget and D. Quorum. Loukia Bitzas seconded the motion; however, it was defeated.
- William Kiritsy informed the GA that D. Quorum was in the January GA minutes to be discussed at the May 2004 GA. Kiritsy withdrew item C. Balanced Budget from the agenda.

D. Quorum

Motion to approve an amendment to the by-laws making the quorum of the General Assembly no less than 50 parishioners in good standing. If a quorum is not met, a quorum will not be necessary at the next calling of the same GA.

- William Kiritsy presented the original motion, seconded by Tina Neidbala.
- George Fotiades amended the motion and presented the revised motion, seconded by Dimitrios Vasiliadis and it passed unanimously.

Old/New Business: William Kiritsy

- Dino Charalambides motioned to schedule the next GA on Sunday, November 7th after the Divine Liturgy, seconded by George Maniatis.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer:

Loukia Bitzas motioned to adjourn, seconded by Menelaos Efstratios and the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

The Parish Council would like to thank Dean, Todd and Nick Stamoulis for providing lunch to all attendees.

Respectfully,
Anastasia Efstratios
Parish Council Secretary

