

SAINT SPYRIDON CATHEDRAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

June 8, 1998

The General Assembly of Saint Spyridon Cathedral was called to order at 12:40 p. m. on Sunday, June 8, 1998 by the President of the Parish Council, Aris Felis. Fr. Nicholas Krommydas offered the opening prayer. There was quorum, as 54 voting members were present.

1. Aris Felis welcomed everyone and called for nominations for an assembly chairperson. Charles Fotos nominated Emmanuel Miliias. PennyAnn McClaren seconded the nomination. Arthur Lagadinos was also nominated but deferred his nomination to Mr. Miliias. The secretary cast one vote and Mr. Miliias was elected Assembly Chairperson.

Emmanuel Miliias assumed the chair and said that the meeting will be conducted in the English language, but if anyone did not understand he would translate into Greek upon request. He requested that everyone be brief, refrain from repetition and speak on the subject.

2. Fr. Nicholas Krommydas addressed the assembly. He stated that the parishioners are the real conscience of our church, not as an institution, but as a body of our faith and traditions. He explained that Fr. Dean Paleologos was not with us today, because he had made a commitment to officiate at a sacrament before the date of the assembly was set.

3. President, Aris Felis, gave his report in English and in Greek. It is appended to these minutes and made a part of the record.

4. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 1/18/98. George Fotiades made the following corrections and/or clarifications:

- a. The following was omitted - "that George Fotiades amended Loukia Bitzas' motion of June 8, 1998 to place ALL income from the Worcester Public School rental fees to a Capital Improvement account, and not a specific amount".-
- b. Page 1 - 12th paragraph should read: "---Stewardship contributions of \$42,000 per year."
- c. Page 4 - PennyAnn McLaren's motion (paragraph 13) supercedes Arthur Lagadinos' motion (paragraph 9).

5. The Audit Committee 1996/1997 fiscal year report, dated June 7, 1998 was presented by George Fotiades, Chair, as follows:

TO: Saint Spyridon Cathedral Stewards

The undersigned members of the auditing Committee have examined the 1996/1997 accounting records of the parish and found them to be in good order. The Treasurer's Report 1996/1997 is a true representation of these records.

We thank our Cathedral secretary, Mrs. Theresa Sampson, for her help this year and also for her years of valuable assistance to the Audit Committee. We also thank our Auditor, Chris Fourkas for his assistance.

The Audit Committee makes the following recommendations:

- 1.) Transfer \$15,000.00 from the Endowment Fund Income to Cathedral Checking Account (\$5,000 is for the 1995/1996 deficit and \$10,000 is for working capital). Previously approved by the General Assembly.
- 2.) Transfer \$1515 from Insurance Claim Fund to Cathedral Checking Account (Inadvertent transfer from Cathedral Checking Account.)
- 3.) Transfer \$1000 from Exchange Account to Endowment Fund Principle (Accumulation of unassigned funds.)
- 4.) Appropriate \$700 from Endowment Fund Income for Shrewsbury land appraisal.
- 5.) Recommend review of the accounting office procedures and revise if appropriate.
- 6.) Collect and review Priest's Discretionary and Memorial Funds original founding documents. If documents do not exist, rules should be developed for their regulation.

Respectfully submitted
Saint Spyridon Audit Committee

Efproxia Cocaine (not signed)
George Fotiades (signed)
Christos Johns (signed)
Christos Kyriakis (signed)
Betty Morgan (signed)
Charles Tanionos (signed)

George Fotiades moved to accept the report, seconded by Charles Fotos. The report was accepted as presented.

6. The Treasurer's Report was distributed and the assembly members were given a few minutes to look over the report. Athan Savas, Treasurer, asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he moved to approve the Audited Treasurer's report for fiscal year 1996/1997 as final financial report for that fiscal year, seconded by John Ellis. The report was approved as presented.

George Fotiades asked that the sentence "It is inappropriate for any committee to spend monies on parties for its members" be recorded in the minutes.

7. Chris Liazos, Chair of the Stewardship Committee, proposed that "Stewardship contributions

be considered as a family unit, children under 21, living at home, are to be considered part of the of the family unit. Children 18 to 21, considered part of the family Unit will be allowed to vote”.

General discussion followed. George Staphanou moved to accept the proposal as written, seconded by James Paltos. Further discussion followed. George Fotiades moved to table the proposal. The proposal was tabled.

8. Athan Savas moved to table to the Fall General Assembly the proposal to transfer surplus monies over and above \$20,000.00 into a special fund for future projects to be approved by the General Assembly. On a second by George Panagiotopoulos the motion was passed.

9. Athan Savas, Treasurer, reported on the increase of the evaluation of the Shrewsbury property by the town of Shrewsbury to \$159,200. The tax is now estimated at \$2200 annually and we had to pay a balance of \$1600. in order to request an abatement. The request was denied and we are now in the process of appealing this decision. Athan Savas moved to appropriate \$2000. from the Endowment Fund interest for this and for the filing fees with regard to the appeal. Seconded by Chris Lekas and passed.

Athan Savas moved to appropriate \$5000.00 from the Endowment fund interest for the cost of sending two delegates to the Clergy Laity Congress, namely Fr. Dean Paleologos and Aris Felis, Parish Council President. Discussion followed. Arthur Lagadinos moved to ammend the motion and appropriate only \$2000.00 per delegate. The amendment was defeated..

George Fotiades amended the motion “ to appropriate \$2500.00 per delegate”. Seconded by Charles Fotos. The original motion passed as amended.

There was discussion as to why the Priest and President are the only delegates. According to Archdiocese by-laws the Priest and the President are automatically delegates. Also, the registration fees had to be submitted in early April. At that time, Father Dean Paleologos and Aris Felis’ names were registered as delegates. What was unfortunate was that the selection of delegates and appropriation of funds for same should have been included in the budget for this fiscal year, but these items were inadvertently overlooked.

10. James Bazoukas, Chair, of the House Committee, reported on the planned restoration of the Cathedral. Other members of the Restoration Committee are Al Matulaitis, George Economou, Steve Economou. It is here noted that the contractor they are working with is the lowest bid and the best value for our money.

James Bazoukas moved to approve the restoration of the paintings and interior of the Cathedral at a cost not to exceed \$212,000. Seconded by Charles Ganiias. After discussion the motion was passed.

James Bazoukas moved to appropriate \$86,000.00 from the Capital Improvement Fund, all the monies (approximately 76,000.00) from the Insurance Claim Fund and to earmark \$50,000.00 from the 1998/1999 Worcester Public Schools System Account in the Capital Improvement Fund Account provided the contract with the City of Worcester school department is accepted. On a second by James Paltos the motion was passed.

11. PennyAnn McClaren presented the following update on the Air Conditioning fund-raising:

Fund-raising Summary

\$250,000.	Project Cost
- <u>100,000.</u>	Church funds approved for project
150,000.	Fund Drive Goal
- <u>114,913.</u>	Pledged to date 6/4/98
\$ 35,087.	Needed to reach Goal

Financial Status

\$100,000.	Church funds approved for project
+ 83,177.	Payment received to date 6/4/98
+ <u>16,000.</u>	Outstanding '98 pledges to be billed on 10/98
\$199,232.	Fund available for 12/98
+ 15,681.	Outstanding '99 pledges to be billed in 1999
+ <u>35,087.</u>	Needed to reach Goal
\$250,000.	

We expect that the remaining \$35,087 will be raised by year's end.

Because our financial picture looks quite positive, it is the recommendation of the House Committee, that we proceed with the upgrading of the Cathedral electrical system as soon as possible so that we are ready to begin the A/C project in a timely manner, allowing us to coordinate it with the restoration project.

However, because the monies to upgrade the electrical system were reported to have been appropriated at the 1/98 general Assembly meeting, yet an actual vote for the appropriation cannot be found in past assembly minutes, PennyAnn moved to "upgrade the electrical system of our Cathedral buildings at a cost not to exceed \$20,000, the monies to be taken from the Cathedral's Air Conditioning Fund." Seconded by James Bazoukas and passed.

12. The Worcester Public School contract is being negotiated by Demitrios Moschos and will be soon finalized.

13. The Greek School teachers and the Greek School Committee will establish a new program to better serve the students. A new teacher will be hired to complement the present staff. Further information will be forthcoming at the Fall General Assembly

14. Arthur Lagadinos requested that we ask the Council of Eastern Orthodox Churches to repay the \$35,000 loan that we made to them. Aris Felis noted that he has been in contact with Maria Mosaides and she has explained that they will repay the loan as soon as possible .

George Fotiades requested that the Census Report be issued by June 30th as previously voted by the General Assembly. Aris Felis responded that as soon as Evans Tsoules compiles the information the report will be distributed. George also reminded the parish Council that General Assembly minutes are to be published in the Church Bulletin.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa B. Sampson, Acting Secretary.