

Saint George Greek Orthodox Church

425 North 58th Avenue, Hollywood, FL 33021 • Tel.: (954) 966-1898 • Fax: (954) 966-1906

Website: www.stgeorgehollywood.org • E-mail: fr.ioannis@gmail.com

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Ioannis Vernikos Tel.: (334) 652-2564

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Parish Assembly - Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2017

Parish Council President Eleni Demirtzoglou called the Parish Assembly meeting to order at 11:54 a.m.

Opening Prayer given by Rev. Fr. Ioannis Vernikos.

Election of Parish Assembly Chairperson

- Georgia Lehoczky nominated Eleni Demirtzoglou as the assembly chairperson. George Nomikos seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Election of Parish Assembly Secretary

- Aleko Sofianos nominated Victor Lehoczky as the assembly secretary. Teddy Karachalios Jr, seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Reading & Approval of Minutes from previous Parish Assembly

- Minutes of the March 19, 2017 Parish Assembly were read aloud by Victor Lehoczky. George Nomikos motioned to accept the minutes. Vicky Retsinas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Pastoral Report

- Fr. Ioannis Vernikos gave his report.
- Fr. thanked the supporters of the recent GOYA efforts.
- Fr. invited parishioners to increase their stewardship so the church can grow beyond its means.
- Fr. thanked various individuals including Victor Lehoczky and Aleko Sofianos for their support of taverna night in April 2017.



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Presidential Report

- Eleni Demirtzoglou gave her report.
- Recited stories of how various Greek Churches in the USA have accomplished great things and how these examples are relevant to St. George. “How can it be explained as to why some parishes are able to achieve things that often seem impossible?” was the question posed and discussed.
- Discussed the need for all parishioners to get involved and how united we can achieve anything.
- Introduced a list of general accomplishments for 2017 and in progress/next step priorities for the church.
- Thanked the parish council, community, and other individuals that may have been forgotten for their continued efforts in supporting St. George.

Treasury Report and 2018 Budget

- Teddy Karachalias Jr. gave the report.
- Current Checking balance: \$16,428.35; current available balance \$5755.91
- Current Building fund balance: \$41,964.93; current available balance: \$41,964.93
- Total balance of building and operating funds: \$58,393.28
- Total available balance of building and operating funds: \$47720.84
- Total number of pledging stewards: 133 (112 in 2016)
- Total 2017 pledged amounts \$74,665.00
- Total 2017 pledge amounts collected \$67,938.00
- Highest pledge \$3,250.00



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- Average pledge \$511.15

	Current Balance	Available Balance
Checking 11/18/17	\$16,428.35	\$5,755.91
Building Fund 11/18/17	\$41,964.93	\$41,964.93
TOTAL	\$58,393.28	\$47,720.84

Stewardship	
Total Pledges	133 (112 in 2016)
Pledged Amount	\$74,665.00
Amount Collected	\$67,983.00
Highest Paid Pledge to Date	\$3,250.00
Average Paid Pledge to Date	\$511.15

- Stated we had a computer system crash in July and numbers are still being compiled. Spring of 2018 is target for all updated totals and profit & loss statements. System is moving to QuickBooks online for additional functionality and ease of data input, reporting and storage. Displayed all statement totals by month for 2017.

	Checking	Building Fund
31-Jan	\$ 37,858.41	\$ 50,468.11
28-Feb	\$ 32,117.67	\$ 50,468.11
31-Mar	\$ 23,418.26	\$ 50,468.11
30-Apr	\$ 41,635.12	\$ 51,316.11
31-May	\$ 28,319.19	\$ 62,999.43
30-Jun	\$ 16,631.08	\$ 62,999.43
31-Jul	\$ 3,265.31	\$ 62,649.23
31-Aug	\$ 3,344.77	\$ 61,941.43
30-Sep	\$ 6,299.28	\$ 50,059.93
31-Oct	\$ 312.40	\$ 47,964.93

- Stated line item numbers were updated in spring of 2017 to better classify expenses and revenue.
- Through June 2017, revenues were \$228,974.33 and expenses \$208,154.86 leaving the church a net profit of \$20,819.47.



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- Summer is our major concern because everyone leaves for the summer but church still has expenses.
- Explained the Mary Savakis fund and how it works.
- We receive approximately 20k from the Mary Savakis fund yearly. This amount has been deposited the last few years into the building fund to help grow our savings.
- Two transfers had to be made from the building fund this year to pay bills. The initial transfer was 10k. The second transfer was 2k. A check for back payments owed from the Savakis fund to St. George (due to the bank's error) was recently received. As such, we recently deposited 8k back into the building fund.
- Explained numerous cost cutting measures and expenditures reductions the church has taken and noted it is on the 2018 projections.
- Stewardship has increased year to date.
- Presvytera Efrossini Vernikos asked how much was needed to put back into building fund and was responded that the church deposited the 8k.
- A statement was made that we need to do more socials and parishioners will come and spend.
- Victor Lehoczky spoke about a lack of volunteers for not doing more socials and that stewardship is a separate entity and it is needed to maintain the viability of the church.
- Mr. Kyrianos asked for a breakdown per family what is needed to sustain
- Roughly \$1100.00 per family based on current stewardship numbers needed to sustain St. George with the existing amount of families registered. (133) This is sustaining, not growing.
- Peter Loupasakis suggested we raise our stewardship \$1 per day.



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- The 2018 projected budget was reviewed at a high level and time provided to review each item and ask questions. Eleni Demirtzoglou repeatedly asked if there were questions or edits and that now was the time to discuss the budget. After ample time, it was brought to a vote. George Nomikos motioned to approve the budget. Panagiotis Loupasakis seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote.

Ministries and Organizations

Religious Education

- Nektaria Koutsofios gave her report on the religious education program and GOYA.
- There is a new religious education teacher at St. George for the pre-k class, Ms. Mary-Linda Flessas.
- There are 10-15 active GOYAns yet attendance was only 2 GOYAns at the most recent event, a Paraklesis Service to the Most Holy Theotokos. Requested parents and grandparents make an effort to bring their children. Transportation can be provided if there is a scheduling conflict for families.
- The Thanksgiving Turkey raffle is still active and all were asked to participate even if you are currently fasting as a means to support the GOYA. The monies raised will be used for educational trips and social events for the GOYAns.
- The programs are still looking for volunteers for many things to help support our youth programs. Time commitment is minimal. Stated the youth is all our responsibility.
- Eleni Demirtzoglou thanked all teachers, advisors and parents for supporting these programs.



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Philoptochos

- Presvytera Efrossini Vernikos gave the report.
- Stated various organizations they support: Breast cancer, Hurricane Irma relief, Greek Smile, Greek School and individuals in need to name a few.
- Goal is to encourage the younger ladies to join Philoptochos.
- Baked goods available through holidays.
- Christmas Luncheon is December 10th
- Donations for library accepted. Monetary or otherwise.
- Eleni Demirtzoglou thanked the Philoptochos for their continued efforts.

Lending Library & Bookstore

- Eleni Demirtzoglou reminded the assembly that books are available for purchase at the Bookstore and new titles are brought in frequently.
- Donations of books or monetary support is needed for the lending library. The library is available in the Chopman Center and works like a library honor system: take a book, read it, and bring it back when complete. Those interested in donating can speak with Fr. Ioannis Vernikos.

Greek School

- George Sykiotis gave his report.
- There were multiple classes this year, with a new adult class added on Mondays from 7-8pm. All classes take place on Monday evenings. It is not too late to enroll.
- A Greek Enrichment program has been started and is held one Friday a month for an hour. The purpose of this program is to allow more time for the teaching of Greek culture and history, beyond just the language basics.



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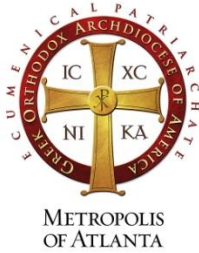
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- A sizable donation from the Cretan Association was received and the Greek School and all of St. George appreciates their support. A new TV for the upstairs classrooms and tablets for use during class to offer varied teaching techniques will be purchased. Other associations may contribute as well, such as the Macedonian Association and AHEPA, and the Greek School is excited at the prospect of the support from these organizations.
- It was requested to take a few more minutes to speak on a few other things, and the assembly agree to let George Sykiotis continue instead of speaking during the Open Floor Agenda Item.
- He thanked many individuals and organizations for the support of the Greek School program, including Aleko Sofianos who introduced him to the position and recommended him, the various Greek Organizations, the overall St. George Community, Fr. Ioannis Vernikos, the parents of the students, and Dimitris Demirtzoglou, the other Greek School teacher who volunteers his time and was the driving force behind setting up the online system through Microsoft for the improvement of the Greek School.
- He asked the community to continue to support St. George in growing and working towards spiritual growth by looking introspectively at ourselves to see how we can improve and do more for the good of the community, that we should actively participate in church and truly listen to the sermons provided by Fr. Ioannis, that we should not be afraid to admit our weaknesses or errors and instead look to grow from them and correct them so that we may all become better Orthodox Christians. He petitioned for all of the community to stand in unity for the success of St. George and to grow not only in our faith, but as a parish for years to come.
- Eleni Demirtzoglou thanked the teachers and parents for the support of the program.



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Seniors Club

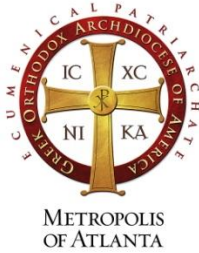
- Eleni Demirtzoglou provided the report on behalf of the seniors. Weekly gatherings are postponed due to lack of attendance. Will resume after the holidays.
- Eleni Demirtzoglou expressed the need to keep the program intact further grow it as it is enjoyed by all when we have the events. Suggestions of trips to the monastery, fun trips, student-senior mentoring, and a cafenio with tavalı would like to be planned and executed, but support is needed.

Victoria Panold Scholarship Fund

- Pat Karambis gave the report.
- Victoria Panold scholarship fund only uses interest from the fund for scholarships.
- The fund has given \$136,000.00 in scholarships to date.
- Thanks to the scholarship committee: Gerry Cullen, Perry Monioudis and Maria Calzada.
- Eleni Demirtzoglou also thanked the committee and Pat Karambis for her efforts.

Dance Groups

- Lia Elrod gave the report.
- Highlighted 2017 HDF achievements and the successes of the groups.
- In January, a group is going to HDF in Orlando.
- A new adult dance group has been added on Sundays. No pressure fun, simply come join for the fellowship.
- Fundraising for HDF is ongoing.



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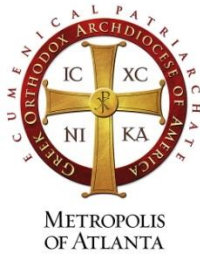
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- Eleni Demirtzoglou thanked the instructors for their efforts and the parents for bringing their children. Mentioned that the dance groups are doing an excellent job reaching beyond the community for financial support by holding external fundraisers weekly prior to HDF.

New Business

- Eleni Demirtzoglou discussed the first item of New Business, the creation of a St. George Parish Strategic Plan.
 - Explained why we need a Strategic plan and how we are in the process of developing a strategic plan that will be roll-out in phases beginning with the creation of a mission statement, completion of a SWOT analysis, and the creation of specific, actionable, and measurable goals. Explained the point of the plan is to establish a firm future for St. George and to grow the Orthodox faith as sacraments, contributions, youth engagement, and stewardship are decreasing, but annual deaths and dependence on funds from events such as festivals are increasing. This must change not only for the success of St. George, but for all of Orthodoxy in the USA.
- Eleni Demirtzoglou discussed the second item of New Business, General Church issues and concerns.
 - Roof concerns are being addressed by the Parish Council. We had a thermal scan completed by Simon Roofing to ascertain where and to what extent of water damage we may have to the structure of the building. Results are in and have to be reviewed before we make a final decision. They will be presented by the roofing coming at the December Parish Council Meeting.
 - We have a possible donor to sponsor the roof repair but the Parish Council board wants to ensure we are addressing the



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right approach to repair. Initial estimate to repair is minimum 5k (prior to thermal scan).

- Mr. Vlahakis asked about insurance coverage for the roof and if we can make an insurance claim.
 - Eleni stated we do not have wind coverage on any of the parish properties as the costs were high and that decision was made in previous years at a Parish Assembly. We however have requested wind coverage quotes and hope to implement
- George Nomikos responded to technical questions about the roof and about estimates stating the need to see the results of thermal scan before we can move forward.
- Eleni Demirtzoglou stated that we will get three bids for the roof as outlined in the guidelines as minimum expectation.
- Eleni Demirtzoglou explained that part of the problem seems to be the drain pipes are set in the sidewall, above the level of the roof. This does not allow gravity to work and the water to flow out. One possible solution is to lower the drain holes into the roof a few inches and angle them to allow for water to run off. Also, enlarging the downspouts may help. The roof also pools water in the middle, and it may need straightened or drains added to remove the standing water.
- Xaroula Gonedes asked why the walls in the church are not being repaired, painted and the iconography finished.
 - Eleni Demirtzoglou explained that it is her understanding that there is a bigger issue with the rebar metal in the walls of the church. Water has gotten into the walls, rusted the rebar, it expanded, and it is cracking the walls. Simply patching inside will only cause the problem to re-occur. Her understanding is the rebar needs to be



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replaced, section by section before the interior can be finished, pending that theory is correct. Also, the church windows need new flashing to push the water outwards to avoid further damage. The iconography is also expensive. She was told that years ago an iconographer wanted approximately 7k to simply design the iconography. Currently, we do not have the funds for either the wall repairs or the iconography drafts.

- Eleni Demirtzoglou gave a report on the two parish properties and stated we could get as much as \$27,500 in revenue for church if we make repairs and remodels.
 - The 1911 N 58th Ave house: Needs a kitchen remodel with the inclusion of a dishwasher and new appliances, paint interior and exterior, iguana removal/house sealing, popcorn ceiling removal, bathroom remodel. Roof repairs, bathtub diverter repairs, ceiling repairs and others have already been made. The parish council has already voted to begin this project.
 - The 409 Glenn Parkway house: Needs multiple repairs including a new back door, rodent removal, house cleaning/sanitation, kitchen cabinet repairs, mold removal, ceiling repairs, roof repairs, vanity replacement, new paint and cleaning up of the landscaping. The extra room in the garage will be sealed off from a potential tenant and used as additional storage for St. George festival items. Picture of the home were shown to the assembly.
- Eleni Demirtzoglou explained the Amazon Smile program as an additional way to bring in funds for St. George. She thanked George Palaidis for his efforts on setting this up. Information will be provided once available for use.



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- Eleni Demirtzoglou explained that St. George was set up as a non-profit with Microsoft and that we are now able to purchase discounted software/hardware and get many items for free through this program. This program currently saves the church up to 2k per year, simplifies office functions, provide us with the @stgeorgehollywood.org domain, provides organization and secure storage of files and records online and will enhance the Greek School program.
- Audit Committee Nominations
 - Presvytera Effrosyni Vernikos motioned to nominated Eleftheria Angelakis. Awaiting acceptance of nomination. Vicky Retsinas seconded the motion.
 - George Nomikos motioned to nominate Ted Pappas. He accepted. Vicky Retsinas seconded the motion. Motion passed.
 - A third nominee must be made to finalize the audit committee. No other nominations received.
- Election Committee Nominations
 - Prevytera Effrosyni Vernikos motioned to nominate George Sykiotis. He accepted. Nektaria Koutsofios Seconded the motion.
 - George Nomikos motioned to nominate Maria Koutsofios. Awaiting acceptance of nomination. Eleni Demirtzoglou seconded the motion.
 - Fotis Starfas motioned to nominate Gregory Eliopoulos. Awaiting acceptance of nomination. George Nomikos seconded the motion.
- Board Nominations
 - George Nomikos nominated Victor Lehoczky and he accepted.
 - Anna Apostolidis nominated George Nomikos and he accepted.
 - Eleni Demirtzoglou nominated Aleko Sofianos and he accepted.
 - Yianni Apostolidis nominated Teddy Karachalias Jr. Awaiting acceptance.
 - Anna Apostolidis nominated Tim Tsiotias. Awaiting Acceptance.



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- Maria Sofianos nominated Anna Karan. Awaiting Acceptance.
- Anna Apostolidis nominated Izzy Mereos. Awaiting Acceptance.
- Eleni reminded all to fill out nomination forms and return to the church office by the due date on the form.

Open Floor

- There were no discussions for the Open Floor Agenda due to lack of attendance at the end of the meeting.

Closing Prayer by Rev. Fr. Ioannis Vernikos.

Parish Assembly adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

DRAFT - TO BE APPROVED 5/6/18