

**St. John's Greek Orthodox Church
Parish Council Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2023**

Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis
Rip Panos — Vice President
Marilyn Sandborn — Secretary
Amin Hanhan
Alexis Scarfogliero
Vasili Panagopoulos

John Zelatis — President
Gary Ward — Treasurer
Jim Armstrong
Suzanne Pileggi
Marcelle Triantafilou

Absent: Mike Xenick, Nick Kataras

Christ is risen!

A. Prayer, Call to Order and Roll Call of Members present

Fr. Stavros offered the Opening Prayer. The Meeting was called to order by President, John Zelatis at 6:37 pm. The Secretary, Marilyn Sandborn recorded the members present.

B. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

Amin H. made a Motion to Approve the PC Minutes from 4/24/23. Jim A. seconded. Motion carried (unanimous)

C. Priest's Report — See attached

Fr. Stavros reported on his involvement with the various ministries and that several were wrapping up for the summer months. He continues to have a significant concern with the school and the ongoing disrespect by the students (and staff) of our property and personnel. He outlined in detail several incidents where (i) vulgar language was used in his presence and even directed at him; (ii) the church property was vandalized/damaged. The current school administration does not have control over its staff or students. We will walk through the school building at the end of the meeting to see how the space has been mistreated.

He also raised concern about the overall direction of our parish. It continues to be at or over capacity on Sundays. We need a plan for a capital campaign to raise the funds to be able to expand the church. A person with the proper experience must be identified who can head this up. We also need the stewardship committee to carry out a formal stewardship campaign which should include face-to-face meetings with those who do not submit a pledge form by the deadline. A program should be rolled out during October-December; stewardship forms collected during January-March; and education and meetings should be taking place April-September. This is an important area that needs attention. It was discussed that "Get to Know You Sundays" be resumed and a Stewardship table be set up in conjunction.

Finally, Fr. Stavros shared an incident that happened the previous Sunday. While the Liturgy was in progress, and the Sunday School students were in the hall preparing for the graduation, some individuals who were sitting in the hall having coffee were asked by the Sunday school staff to vacate the area. They refused. This behavior is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. If this should occur again, the ushers/security team are to get involved and take action necessary to remove such individuals from the premises. People should not be congregating in the hall having coffee until the Liturgy is concluded.

D. Officer Reports

1. President's Report — None
2. Treasurer's Report

Gary W. reviewed and explained the Report of Assessable Expenses for the Archdiocese annual assessment. Last year, the assessment was \$96,960; for this year, it is estimated to be \$104,550. The assessment is an amount equal to approximately 24% of the assessable expenses (this year \$454,807). He also advised that Fr. John requested that part of his monthly compensation be designated as a housing allowance.

Alexis S. made a Motion that beginning July 1, Fr. John's monthly compensation of \$2000 be designated as follows: \$1,000 as salary; \$1,000 as housing allowance. Jim A. seconded. Motion carried (unanimous).

E. Committee Reports

1. Building and Grounds

A. Church Expansion

Rip P. reported that the proposal is close to being finalized. We can expect that the cost of the plans (including engineering and mechanical) as well project consulting fees to be approximately \$85,000. An initial retainer of approximately \$15,000 will be required. It is anticipated that it will take six months to complete the design and produce the plans.

B. Community Center Canopy

Rip P. reported that the work on the Canopy will not begin until the middle of June, at the earliest. The construction may not be complete by the beginning of the next school year. He is reviewing the proposed contract and will report back.

C. Miscellaneous

Rip P. advised that the interior wall on the East side of the church appears to be showing evidence of moisture (bubbling) again. This is the section that was previously repaired and the nearby stained glass windows re-caulked. He will arrange for the exterior brick wall to be treated/waterproofed to see if that alleviates the bubbling.

2. Stewardship Report — See attached.

President John Z. presented the stewardship report on behalf of the stewardship committee. In comparison to last year at this time, the numbers are lagging. The potential seems to be there, but the numbers in the report are not reflective. Additional discussion about Stewardship is set forth above.

F. Old Business

1. Parish Assistance Program (PAP)

Marcelle T. presented information about the usage of the program during the prior year. Four members of the parish community accessed the program. The benefactor who has funded one half of the cost of providing the program has agreed to continue to provide one half of the funding. The total cost to

continue the program is \$2,599 (a reduction from the prior year). The cost to St. John's will be \$1,299.50. It was suggested that the availability of the program continue to be promoted in the bulletin, the Messenger, and periodically by Fr. Stavros during the announcements after Liturgy.

Amin H. made a Motion to renew the PAP for another year and approve an expenditure of up to \$1,300 to cover the cost of the program. Alexis S. seconded. Motion carried (unanimous).

2. Greek School

Fr. Stavros announced that the Metropolis has mandated that the Greek School program be continued beyond the 5th grade level.

Amin H. made a Motion to re-evaluate the Greek School program after the 2023-24 school year. Alexis S. seconded. Motion carried (unanimous).

3. AED Training

Marcelle T. announced that CPR and AED training would be held on Sunday, June 4 after the Liturgy. This training is for parish leadership. Another training session will be offered in September for those unable to attend on June 4.

4. Festival

President John Z. reported that the Festival leadership team was being formulated. The festival is scheduled for the weekend of November 3-5. It has not been determined whether it will be a 2 or 3 day event.

5. Clergy Laity June 21-25, 2023

Fr. Stavros and Jim A. will be attending the Clergy Laity Conference in Tarpon Springs, June 21-25.

6. Pastoral Assistant/Ministry Coordinator

In anticipation of Vasili's return to the seminary in August, Fr. Stavros is concerned that there are no prospects for a Pastoral Assistant or a chanter. The idea of hiring a part time ministry coordinator was discussed. Fr. Stavros will prepare a job description for that position.

7. Action Items

At this time, President John Z. reviewed the Action items and noted that there is a follow-up meeting with the school scheduled for May 31. A commitment by the school to remedy the noncompliance with the lease terms and to complete/pay for repairs and property restoration is imperative. If the school is unwilling, legal action will be pursued.

G. Regular Business

1. Insurance

President John Z. advised that the premium quotes he is receiving for \$1,000,000 of wind coverage are prohibitive. The premiums are rising and the coverage is more limited. He will continue to investigate other options that are financially prudent and will inquire as to the premium cost for lower levels of coverage. Self-insurance is another option to further explore.

2. Donation for Dome Restoration

President John Z. will schedule a meeting with Sam Toney, a parishioner who was interested in assisting with the restoration of the Church dome.

H. New Business

1. Communion in Hall

Recently during a Sunday Liturgy when Fr. John was offering Holy Communion to the parishioners in the Hall, there was some confusion about where people should line up and exit after receiving Holy Communion and there was interference by people entering/exiting the Hall. The ushers will be instructed that the Priest will offer Holy Communion beyond the threshold of the entry area of the Hall.

2. Legacy Society

There was discussion about providing a program for parishioners who wish to make St. John's a beneficiary of their estate planning. Fr. Stavros will discuss the idea with George Mitseas/Stewardship Committee.

3. Relocating Church Office off campus

There was some interest in exploring the cost and availability of office space in close proximity to the Church in the event that the current working environment does not improve and alternate work space is needed.

4. Update regarding Office administration

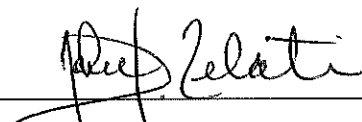
Marilyn S. briefly discussed some of the ongoing office projects; including cross training Kim to perform some of Debbie's duties while Debbie is on vacation in June/July; office computer upgrade; file clean-out/organization; money room clean-up; kitchen clean-up; PDS report clean-up. These projects are being coordinated by Sandra Pappas with assistance from several volunteers.

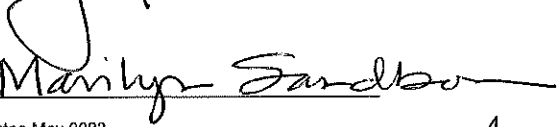
I. Date for next PC Meetings— June 12, 2023 (Mon) @ 6:30pm

J. Adjournment; Closing Prayer

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm. Fr. Stavros offered a closing prayer.

Priest:  _____

President:  _____

Secretary:  _____