

HOLY APOSTLES PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

1/16/25 @ 7:30 PM

1. **Call to Order:** James Maragos at 7:33 PM
2. **Opening Prayer:** Father Dokos
3. **Recite Mission Statement:** Nicole Ostendorf
4. **Introduction** of newly elected Parish Council members: George Antonopoulos (Treasurer), Dr. Peter Bell, Terry Chiganos, Ted Dres, Bill Leider, Dr. James Maragos (President), Steven Milak, Nicole Ostendorf, Patty Pappas (Secretary), Michael Parafink, Christopher Pepke, Sandra Pihos (Vice President), Michael Thiakos, Nicole Voelz, Valentia Vourlos. Past President Norm Pomrening introduced himself as Advisor to the Parish Council.
5. **Administering of the Affirmation of Office** to Steven Milak, Patty Pappas and Christopher Pepke by Father Georgiou.
6. **Approval of Minutes:** Patty Pappas presented the updated minutes of the December 19, 2024 meeting. Sandra Pihos moved that the Parish Council approve the updated version of the December minutes; Terry Chiganos seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.
7. **Correspondence:** Patty Pappas reported that handwritten thank you notes were received from Father Dokos, Father Georgiou, Deacon Perry and Diakonissa Pat, Nick Paloumpis and Sophia Pappas for Christmas gifts. Outreach Corporation provided Statements of Contribution totaling \$55,500 for the contributions made in support of the Holy Apostles Feed 6 event. Metropolitan Nathanael sent correspondence expressing his gratitude for our hospitality during his visit to celebrate Divine Liturgy at our 65th Anniversary. Bishop Timothy sent correspondence ratifying the Parish Council elections held on 12/8/24 and recognizing the new members of Parish Council as validly elected.
8. **Ecclesiastical Report:** Father Dokos presented a Patristix video regarding the Feast of the Holy Theophany for discussion. He also reported that Nick Koumis has digitized a total of 665 sermons of Father Bill Chiganos plus Awaken to God. These are being uploaded onto the Holy Apostles website.
9. **Ministries**
 - a. **Finance:** George Antonopoulos presented a brief review of the 2024 financials. The budgeted revenue was \$1.21 million. Our actual revenue totaled \$1.36 million, with fundraisers and donations accounting for the difference. On the expense side, the budget was for \$1.074 million. The actual expense totaled \$1.25 million, exceeding the budget by \$176,000. Overall, total revenue exceeded expenses by \$110,000. The Finance Committee will meet to further analyze the financial performance.
 - b. **Stewardship & Welcoming:** Sandra Pihos provided a report on stewardship pledges.

Metric	Dec 2024 YTD	Dec 2023 YTD	% Change
Number of Pledges	717	677	6%
Total Pledged	\$883,817	\$783,274	13%
Amount Collected	\$865,433	\$771,007	12%
Median Pledge	\$600	\$600	0%
Average Pledge	\$1,233	\$1,157	7%

She also reported a restructuring so that ‘Stewardship and Parish Development’ will become a committee under the Parish Council. The ministry formerly known as ‘Stewardship’, due to its philanthropic and family focus, will be renamed, tentatively as ‘Parish Family Ministry’.

c. Building and Grounds:

- i. Chris Pepke is submitting a report to the Metropolis of Chicago for approval to rebuild/repair the front door.
- ii. He will be receiving bids for cleaning of the duct work, and will also then prepare and submit this report to the Metropolis of Chicago for approval as well.
- iii. He reported that the choir loft carpet has now been replaced.
- iv. Chris reported that the large shrubs surrounding the air conditioning units on the south end of the church were removed. A brick wall will be built around the perimeter of the units to match with the aesthetics of the church building.
- v. Other projects to be reviewed in 2025: evaluation of the parking lot and the need to resurface it, remodel of the front office, replacement/restoration of our signage and cross along Wolf Road, updating the lighting within the church, replacing the security camera system.

d. **Technology:** Steven Milak is seeking to renegotiate the terms of our Wi-Fi service contract. He is also preparing an application for a technology grant.

e. **Ushering:** Ted Dres has requested all Parish Council members to provide their availability for ushering through the month of April. He reported that Google Sheets has been updated with all future liturgy dates, and he will create the ushering schedule utilizing that software program.

f. **Missions:** Peter Bell reported that annually we support three principal missions/missionaries: Nathan Hoppe in Albania, Jesse Brandow in Central America, and the Archdiocese of Korea.

- i. Peter Bell moved that Holy Apostles support the following Missions in 2025:
 - 1. Jesse Brandow (Central America) for \$6,000.
 - 2. Nathan Hoppe (Albania) for \$12,000.
 - 3. Archdiocese of Korea for \$18,000.

Steven Milak seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

10. Old Business:

a. **Employee Handbook:** Sandra Pihos reported that the Employee Handbook is reviewed annually and approved at the December Parish Council meeting.

- b. **Office Reorganization:** Sandra Pihos reported that Lou Kafkes has extensive responsibilities, and we are looking to support him through the hiring of a part time associate. We are spreading information relating to the job opening on all communication channels.
- c. **Holy Apostles Foundation:** Patty Pappas provided an overview of the progress and achievements made toward the establishment of the Holy Apostles Foundation, which will be a 501(c)(3) corporation. Joan Berg is now coordinating the initial meeting of the Board of Directors so that the formation documents can be signed and then subsequently filed with the IRS and the Illinois Secretary of State.
- d. **Cemetery Plots:** Patty Pappas provided a brief review of HA's ownership of cemetery plots at Chapel Hill Gardens West in Oakbrook Terrace. We have been negotiating with Chapel Hill to formalize an exchange of 24 unusable plots for usable ones. Chapel Hill has now emailed us the signed contracts, which we will review for completion. Next, we will begin to actively market the sale of the remaining plots owned by HA.
- e. **Youth Worker Registration:** Patty Pappas reported that the Archdiocese regulations require that youth workers must register annually, train annually, and have a background check performed every two years. At last check, 16 out of 90 youth workers were noncompliant. However, Lou Kafkes will review the official database because the list is constantly changing. If the up to date list indicates any noncompliant youth workers, we will require those workers to complete their training at an in person session, or they will no longer be youth workers at HA.
- f. **Feed 6:** Norm Pomrening reported that we assembled 154,078 meals, for a total of over 961,000 meals since we began Feed 6 in 2017. The goal for next year is to assemble 150,000 to 200,000 meals. We would like to involve GOYA and Junior GOYA members to serve as our table captains. Feed 6 will next take place on 1/24/26.
- g. **Compensation for Communication Specialist:**
 - i. Steven Milak moved for adoption of a motion which, after debate and amendment, was adopted as follows: To increase Alexa Kakis' compensation by \$74 per month.
 - ii. Bill Leider seconded the motion. Motion passed with majority..
- h. **Holy Apostles Directory:** Norm Pomrening reported that we are deciding whether to compile another printed church directory. Methods of communication have changed, and more churches are shifting to an online format for their directories, if they have one. Nicole Voelz will explore the options and prepare a report.

11. New Business:

- a. **Macaronatha Luncheon:** Sandra Pihos reported that the Macaronatha Luncheon will be hosted by the Parish Council on 3/2/25. She will serve as the chair. There is no ticket fee to attend the luncheon but attendees have the opportunity to make a donation. The Missions Ministry will decide the beneficiary of the donations from this event.
- b. **Leamus Maintenance Contract:** James Maragos reported that the contract with Leamus expired at the end of 2023. Leamus did not receive a compensation increase in 2024 and

there was no written contract renewal. We are very pleased with the quality of their service and would like to negotiate a new contract for 2025.

- i. Terry Chiganos moved to negotiate a one year contract with Leamus not to exceed 6% and 3% every year thereafter that it is negotiated.

Bill Leider seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

- c. **65th Anniversary Luncheon Recap:** Sandra Pihos reported that the luncheon format was well received. Profits are not firmly established but are anticipated to be between \$64,000 to \$65,000. The transition from print to digital ad book was successful. We need to address both reservations and payment processing, as we encountered some difficulties with both. It is recommended that both the 70th and 75th anniversary celebrations begin planning 18 months in advance.
- d. **Barbara Pappas Memorial Committee:** Sandra Pihos reported that a committee has been formed, consisting of Pauline Franks, Perry Hamalis, Nola Vandarakis, Sandra Pihos and Patty Pappas. The committee will meet in February to discuss and oversee a tribute to the memory of Barbara Pappas.
- e. **Holiday Schedule:** Norm Pomrening recommended that we publish the holiday schedule in the church calendar. This will define the days when the church office is closed. Lou Kafkes will review the dates and report back.
- f. **Fellowship Hour:** Lou Kafkes reported that we are not finding enough hosts for Fellowship Hour. He will speak with Sandra Pihos to troubleshoot solutions.

12. **Next Regular Meeting:** 2/20/25 at 7:30 PM

13. **Key Dates:**

- a. Parish Council Training 1/28/25 at 7:00 PM
- b. Host Premarital Seminar 2/8/25
- c. Host Clergy Syndesmos Meeting 2/11/25
- d. Host Peace of Mind Mental Health Training 2/15/25
- e. Greek School Apokreatiko Glendi 2/16/25
- f. Host OCF College Day 2/22/25
- g. Macaronatha Luncheon 3/2/25 (all Parish Council needed)
- h. Holy Apostles Special Parish Assembly 3/16/25
- i. Special Clergy Laity Assembly 4/1/25
- j. Holy Apostles Spring Parish Assembly 5/4/25
- k. Fr. Bill Chiganos Memorial Service and Coffee Hour 5/11/25

14. **Closing Prayer:** Father Georgiou

15. **Adjourn:** James Maragos at 9:53 PM

Absent: All members present.