

HOLY APOSTLES GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: Thursday, June 19, 2025

Time: 7:30 PM

Location: Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church

1. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order by President James Maragos at 7:35 PM.

2. Opening Prayer

- a. Offered by Father Georgiou.

3. Recitation of Mission Statement

- a. Read aloud by Valentia Vourlos:

“The mission of the Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church is to proclaim and live our Orthodox faith as One Church and One Body of Christ through worship, ministries, education, and youth guidance. *FOR WE WALK BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT*” (II Corinthians 5:7).

4. Approval of Minutes

- a. May 15, 2025 Parish Council Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve by Patty Pappas, seconded by Steven Milak, *as amended with gratitude for the excellent slideshow presentation at the Spring Parish Assembly*. Approved unanimously *as amended*.
- b. May 19, 2025 Special Parish Council Meeting Minutes (Executive Session): Motion to approve by Patty Pappas, seconded by Sandra Pihos. Approved unanimously.

5. Correspondence - Report by Patty Pappas

- a. Hodges|Loizzi legal summary for pro bono work by Vanessa Clohessy.
- b. IOCC thank you letter for Grand Banquet donation.
- c. Panhellenic Scholarship Foundation Invitation.
- d. Thank you card from Deacon Perry & Diakonissa Pat Hamalis, Diki & John Kolimbiris for support and prayers in the wake of their father’s repose.

6. Ecclesiastical Report – Father Georgiou

- a. Father Georgiou led a reading and discussion on the life of Archbishop Anastasios of Tirana, Durres, and All Albania, of Blessed Memory.

7. Ministry Reports

- a. **Finance** – Lou Kafkes reported on behalf of George Antonopoulos:
 - i. The cash position, which includes both capital and operating accounts, is equal to \$1.44 million.
 - ii. Corrections were made for some expense allocations that were paid out of the operating account, which were shifted instead to the capital account.
 - iii. May 2025 financial results were below expectations; year-to-date net revenue is \$111,000 (approximately \$25,000 below budget).

- iv. Early payroll tax reimbursement was issued due to Father Dokos' sabbatical travel.
- v. Retroactive pay for Leamus janitorial services impacted May financial standing.
- vi. Pledge reminder letters will be sent to families that have not yet made their 2025 pledge.

b. **Stewardship** – Sandra Pihos provided a report on stewardship pledges:

Metric	May 2025 YTD	May 2024 YTD	% Change
Number of Pledges	549	569	-4%
Total Pledged	\$ 738,612	\$ 738,096	0%
Amount Collected	\$ 585,219	\$ 592,958	-1%
Median Pledge	\$ 600	\$ 600	0%
Average Pledge	\$ 1,345	\$ 1,297	4%

- i. Stewardship pledges are currently stagnant, but similar to May 2024 year-to-date.
- ii. We will work as a small team to identify and communicate parish needs.
- iii. Planning a stewardship push in the fall with help from Chris Pepke for identification of church building needs.

c. **Building & Grounds** – Report by Chris Pepke:

- i. If all 2025 building and grounds projects are completed according to budget, there will be \$182,000 remaining in the capital account. In contrast, our reserve study calls for \$350,000 to be allotted annually toward building and grounds projects. Beginning in 2026, we will be short on funds for completion of needed projects.
- ii. Anticipated 2026 project: Parking lot overhaul (\$500,000), including new curbs and lighting.
- iii. Other upcoming projects:
 - Interior lighting for the nave, baptistry, narthex, and multi purpose room. The priority is to install lighting within the nave. A lighting design proposal for \$43,800 was submitted to the BPA for layouts in these areas.
 - Nave accessibility ramp options are under review. Options include permanent versus moveable ramps.
- iv. Projects completed/in progress: air duct cleaning, office remodel, monument wall and signage, interior lighting, and security camera upgrades.
- v. Finance Committee to meet in July to plan funding strategy for upcoming capital needs.

d. **Technology** – Steve Milak

- i. No formal report submitted.

e. **Ushering** – Report by Ted Dres:

- i. Discussed need for balanced Board presence indoors and outdoors during church picnic.
- ii. Ushering scheduling through August is complete; the schedule will be posted in the office.
- iii. Members were reminded to find replacements when unavailable; to notify Ted; to update the office copy.
- iv. Announced Paraklesis for Elaine Katzioris on Friday, June 20 at 7:00 PM with coffee hour afterward.

8. Old Business

a. **Holy Apostles Foundation** – Report by James Maragos

- i. Marketing campaign to launch in July/August, led by Foundation Board Member Joanne Volakakis.

b. **Parish Picnic** – Report by Mike Thiakos & Sandra Pihos

- i. Thank you to the many volunteers that made our picnic a great success.
- ii. Formal report to be presented in July once all costs have been ascertained.
- iii. 420 meals were served; food and desserts were highly praised.
- iv. Suggested exploring RSVP and donation format for future picnics.
- v. Peter Bell and Sandra Pihos assisted with donation collections this year.

- c. **Vacation Bible School** – Report submitted by Nicole Voelz
 - i. 40 volunteers (including juniors) participated.
 - ii. Athletico provided a \$5,000 donation; \$900 surplus noted.
 - iii. Collection was taken during carnival day for philanthropic outreach.
 - iv. Advocate Health donation check from the previous year was never cashed.
- d. **Junior Olympics** – Report submitted by Nicole Voelz
 - i. 48 youth participants in various sports.
 - ii. Many medals awarded.
 - iii. Thank you to our Athletic Directors for their involvement in this successful event.
- e. **Parish Event Financial Planning** – Report by Sandra Pihos
 - i. Emphasized need for financial reports on all events.
 - ii. Suggested using QuickBooks for tracking expenses and income.
 - iii. All event chairs should submit budget-related data for future planning.
- f. **Greek School** – Report by Nicole Ostendorf
 - i. Motion made by Nicole Ostendorf to rename the *Holy Apostles Greek School* with the official name of *Holy Apostles Hellenic Academy*, effective immediately. Seconded by Sandra Pihos. The motion passed unanimously.
 - ii. 2025/2026 enrollment: 40 students to date; registration link had technical issues.
- g. **Youth Worker Training** – Report by Patty Pappas
 - i. There are 8 youth workers currently noncompliant with the required youth safety training.
 - ii. The ministry leaders were notified to enforce the ‘no contact’ rule until these individuals become compliant.
 - iii. The ministry leaders have informed us that most of these noncompliant individuals are no longer youth workers. Upon confirmation, they will be removed from the database of registered youth workers.
 - iv. The list changes month by month: since youth workers train at different times, training expiration dates vary from person to person.
- h. **Chapel Hill Cemetery Plots** – Report by Patty Pappas
 - i. A procedural checklist has been developed to establish a clear and consistent process for the sale of remaining cemetery plots.
 - ii. Internal records and the computer database are currently being reviewed and updated to ensure accuracy and completeness.
 - iii. Since December 2023, eight cemetery plots have been sold, generating a total income of \$36,000.

9. New Business

- a. **Hearing Loop Project** – Report by James Maragos
 - i. Total cost of the project: \$26,850 (Nave + MPR)
 - ii. The Hellenic Foundation would like to reimburse us for the nave portion of the cost, totaling \$13,350.
 - iii. Motion made by Steve Milak to allocate the \$13,350 in donation funds from the Hellenic Foundation to the Capital Account, seconded by Sandra Pihos. Unanimously approved.
 - iv. Donor recognition via website/social media only, per parish policy.
- b. **St. Iakovos Retreat Center & Metropolis Vision Fund Donations**
 - i. Proposed to create a missions budget and guidelines before making final decisions on donation requests.
 - ii. Discussion tabled to next meeting.
- c. **Holy Apostles Feast Day Services**
 - i. 6/29 at 7:00 PM – Vespers service with homily by Father Nicholas Greanias.
 - ii. 6/30 at 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy.

d. **Golf Outing** – July 7, 2025

- i. Location: Oak Brook Hills Hilton.
- ii. Includes lunch, golf, cocktails, dinner, raffle and auction.
- iii. Scramble format is designed for both golfers and non-golfers.
- iv. Significant fundraiser for Holy Apostles.

e. **Parish Directory**

- i. Team developing a proposal for a new church directory.
- ii. Ginny Petru will work on its layout and design.
- iii. Parishioners may submit their own photos and information without the need for a formal photo session.
- iv. Will consider an in person photo session as well for those interested.

f. **5K Event Recap:**

- i. Approximately 35 parishioners attended the event.
- ii. Plans to improve promotion for next year's 5K event.

g. **Finance Committee Meetings**

- i. Committee to begin meeting monthly starting in July.
- ii. Goal: Develop a unified financial strategy and budget plan, especially for the parking lot project.

10. Next Regular Meeting

- a. Thursday, July 17, 2025 at 7:30 PM

11. Key Upcoming Dates

- a. **Sunday, June 29 at 7:00 PM** – Holy Apostles Feast Day Vespers
- b. **Monday, June 30 at 9:30 AM** – Holy Apostles Feast Day Liturgy
- c. **Monday, July 7** – Golf Outing at Willow Crest Golf Club, Oak Brook Hills Hilton
 - 11:30 AM: Lunch and Registration
 - 12:30 PM: Shotgun Start
 - 6:00 PM: Cocktails
 - 6:30 PM: Dinner and Raffle

d. **Sunday, September 7** – Ministry Fair (after Liturgy)

e. **Wednesday–Thursday, November 5–6** – Metropolis of Chicago Clergy/Laity Conference

12. Closing Prayer

- a. Offered by Father Georgiou.

13. Adjournment

- a. James Maragos officially adjourned the meeting at 9:21 PM.

Absent:

Antonopoulos, George
Dokos, Fr. George
Voelz, Nicole