

HOLY APOSTLES GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: Thursday, July 17, 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 7:34 PM.

2. Opening Prayer

- a. Offered by Father Georgiou.

3. Recitation of Mission Statement

- a. Read aloud by Mike Thiakos:

“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. Approval of June 19, 2025 Parish Council Meeting Minutes:

- i. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Patty Pappas and seconded by Bill Leider. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Correspondence - Report by Patty Pappas

- a. A thank you letter was received from Fanari Camp, expressing gratitude for the donation of items from their Amazon Wishlist.
- b. A thank you letter was received from Metropolitan Nathanael, acknowledging and appreciating the parish’s hospitality during his pastoral visit to celebrate Vespers.
- c. A letter from Metropolitan Nathanael informed us that the Buildings, Projects, and Architecture Committee has approved the Lighting Project Designer, as outlined in the correspondence.
- d. A donation request letter was received from the Westchester Food Pantry.

6. Ecclesiastical Report – Father Georgiou

- a. Father Georgiou led a reading and discussion on *The Autopsy of a Deceased Church* by Thom Rainer.

7. Ministry Reports

- a. **Finance** – George Antonopoulos:

- i. Operating and Capital account totals as of June 30, 2025 equaled \$1.48 million, up from \$1.29 million at the beginning of 2025.

- ii. Year to date revenue is ahead of budget due to donations and reduced expenses.

- iii. We expect the cash position to reduce due to a pledge slowdown.

- iv. Sales tax exemption form: we have the necessary information and are ready to proceed with completion of the application form.

v. Greek School funds run through the operating account; its PTO funds are also housed within the church account.

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

Metric	Jun 2025 YTD	Jun 2024 YTD	% Change
Number of Pledges	566	593	-5%
Total Pledged	\$761,192	\$756,356	+1%
Amount Collected	\$625,070	\$636,455	-2%
Median Pledge	\$600	\$600	0%
Average Pledge	\$1,345	\$1,275	+5%

i. We are experiencing a summer slowdown in pledges. Pledges in June 2025 are down 5% compared to June 2024.

ii. Reminders have been sent to 200 past parishioners who have not yet pledged this year.

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

i. Project Updates:

- Mechanical enclosure and monument sign: designs are 90% complete.
- Front office remodel: design is 60% complete.
- Final designs to be reviewed before contractor outreach.
- Front door: remaining parts just received and will be installed.

ii. Fundraising for Capital Projects:

- \$3.5 million is needed for capital projects over the next 10 years.
- Major projects include parking lot replacement; removal and replacement of defective brickwork throughout the interior and exterior of the church.

d. **Technology**

i. No formal report submitted.

e. **Ushering**

i. No formal report submitted.

8. Old Business

a. **Chapel Hill Cemetery Plots** – Report by Patty Pappas

i. Since last month’s meeting, two more plots have been sold.

ii. There have been 10 plot sales since 12/23, resulting in \$45,000 of income.

iii. Eight plots have been purchased by parishioners but they have not yet selected the plots from our available inventory.

iv. There is a brand new office manager at Chapel Hill, Madison Underwood. We will work to establish a good relationship with her.

v. In order for Chapel Hill to generate the quitclaim deeds for each plot (to legally transfer title to the new owners), we need to provide them with paid receipts. Lou has been sending those to Chapel Hill as the payments are made. Many of the recent sales have yet to be finalized with execution of the quitclaim deeds.

vi. We will continue working with Chapel Hill to complete these final steps for each transaction.

b. Youth Worker Protection Training – Report by Patty Pappas

i. There are several individuals listed in the Metropolis database who no longer are youth workers at Holy Apostles. We are cross checking with the youth related ministries before they are removed permanently from the registration database.

ii. With the new school year approaching, Lou will re-send a letter in the month of August to the ministry leaders with registration/training instructions for any new youth volunteers.

iii. There are two individuals that are new youth workers and must register.

iv. The ministry leaders have been informed about the ‘no contact’ rule until youth workers are fully compliant.

c. Greek School - Report by Nicole Ostendorf

i. Currently, 50 students are registered for the Greek School, with total enrollment projected to reach 90 by the fall.

ii. A new teacher is to be hired on a trial basis for the upcoming school year.

d. Golf Outing Preliminary Report - Report by James Maragos

i. 88 golfers attended the Golf Outing, with 12 additional joining for the dinner.

ii. Gross Income: \$38,698

iii. Expenses: \$18,698

iv. Net Profit: \$19,692 (not final)

v. Successful event with good weather and turnout.

9. New Business

a. Bylaws Committee - Report by James Maragos and Sandra Pihos

i. A Bylaws Committee is being formed to discuss and review possible amendments to our Bylaws pertaining to:

-Flexible Fall Parish Assembly date

-Staggered terms for Parish Council members

-Procedure to cancel monthly meeting if necessary

ii. Terry Chiganos to chair the committee.

iii. Parish Council approval of any proposed amendments is needed prior to presentation to the Parish Assembly.

b. Finance Committee

i. The Finance Committee will begin its work on the 2026 budget in August, with monthly meetings thereafter.

ii. The first meeting date is targeted for August 25th.

iii. George Antonopoulos, Parish Council Treasurer, is to chair the committee.

c. Fundraising for Building & Grounds Projects - Report by Sandra Pihos and Chris Pepke

i. See the Building & Grounds Report under Ministry Reports for further information.

d. Parish Directory - Report by Sandra Pihos

i. The Parish Family Ministry is currently leading two key projects:

-updating parishioner contact information in the church database

-producing a new parish directory

ii. A questionnaire has been distributed through church communication channels to gather the most up-to-date information from parishioners.

iii. The ministry is actively exploring resources for the production of the new parish directory.

iv. The goal is to complete both projects within one year.

e. Parish Ministries / Ministry Fair - Report by Sandra Pihos

i. The Ministry Fair is scheduled for Sunday, September 7th, in the Multi Purpose Room following the Divine Liturgy.

ii. Katy Fisher is coordinating the room setup for the event. Additional assistance from Parish Council members will

be needed.

- iii. Each ministry will have a designated space to showcase information and materials.
- iv. The ministries will also be responsible for hosting the coffee hour on the day of the Fair.

f. Project Hope - Missions and Philoptochos - report by Peter Bell

- i. In September, Philoptochos and the Missions Ministry will collaborate to assemble gift bags for the Pilsen adult center as part of Project Hope.
- ii. A motion was made by Peter Bell to allocate up to \$600 from the Missions discretionary budget to cover the cost of the gift bags for Project Hope. The motion was seconded by Sandra Pihos and passed by a majority vote.

10. Next Regular Meeting

- a. Thursday, August 21, 2025 at 7:30 PM

11. Key Upcoming Dates

- a. **Wednesday, August 14** - Vespers Trip to Assumption Cathedral
- b. **Sunday, September 7** – Ministry Fair (following the Divine Liturgy)
- c. **Wednesday–Thursday, November 5–6** – Metropolis of Chicago Clergy-Laity Conference

12. Closing Prayer

- a. Offered by Father Georgiou.

13. Adjournment

- a. A motion to adjourn was made by Patty Pappas and seconded by George Antonopoulos. The motion passed unanimously. President James Maragos officially adjourned the meeting at 8:51 PM.

Absent:

- Ted Dres
- Steven Milak
- Fr. George Dokos