

**HOLY APOSTLES PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**9/19/24 @ 7:30 PM**

1. Call to Order: Norm Pomrening called to order at 7:33 pm
2. Opening Prayer: Father Dokos
3. Recite Mission Statement: Norm Pomrening
4. Approval of Minutes: Val Dranias moved to approve the minutes of the last PC meeting; Sandy Pihos seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.
5. Correspondence: Val Dranias a thank you from the family of Mary Aravosis; a request from the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians for a donation. Consensus was that we had just donated to the Metropolis Choir Conference so we would skip this donation.
6. Ecclesiastical Report: Father Dokos directed a discussion on The Holy and Great Martyr Eustace – St. Efstathios
7. Effective Christian Ministry Project & Youth: Alexa Kakis was our guest speaker to introduce the PC to ECM. Last year 15-20 parishioners participated in group discussions after viewing 40 videos on what can improve stewardship and participation in our parish. Alexa, Fr. George, Toni Milak and Lea Chiganos are the leadership team for ECM at Holy Apostles. They have 2-3 meetings with their coach, a summit once a month with other churches, have an end of the month applied project. This months concentrated on Young Adults and what we could do better to keep YA in the church. Suggestions included a moment of silence and better connections with little kids. At the end of 9 months – a big project that gives a plan on how to move forward with keeping Young Adults (18-25) active.
8. Ministries
  - a. Finance: Steve Milak
    - i. August YTD – Capital Account at \$570,580.67; Operating Account at \$698,324.51.
    - ii. 2025 Budget – Discussion on how we need to present the budget needs to the stewards at the Parish Assembly
  - b. Stewardship & Welcoming: Sandy Pihos

<b>Metric</b>	<b>Aug 2023 TYD</b>	<b>Aug 2024 YTD</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Number of Pledges	612	646	6%
Total Pledged	\$752,114	\$783,435	4%
Amount Collected	\$655,827	\$704,597	7%
Median Pledge	\$600	\$600	0%
Average Pledge	\$1,229	\$1,213	-1%

Ministry Fair – the booklet highlighting our various ministries was distributed at the Ministry Fair. We had an excellent attendance and more people seemed to visit the tables and sign up for various ministries. The coffee hour was also

hosted by this group. There are now extra booklets available and there was a suggestion that we keep some in the holders behind the pews.

Veterans Day – Stewardship intends to make gift bags for our parish veterans and care packages for our two active military men on Saturday, October 26 after liturgy. There will be an Artoclasia on Sunday, November 10 for all our veterans. We will ask for names to be submitted to the church office, similar to the way we do Graduate Sunday; and call the veterans up to be recognized.

Bingo – A family bingo night will be sponsored by the Stewardship Committee on Saturday, November 9. We will keep the price at \$10 per person. The proceeds will be split between The Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans in Wheaton and our next “FUN” fundraiser.

Vesper Potluck – To encourage more people to attend the Saturday Vespers Potlucks, Stewardship plans to send out a flyer with Sunday School students the week before listing the important reasons to attend. They will also create a standalone email to highlight the evening.

Peter Bell suggested talking with Building and Grounds, Lou and the Fathers to create a “wish list” of smaller budget items that money from fundraising can go towards within the church.

Honoring Chris Pepke who averages over 20 hours a week working the Building and Grounds needs.

- c. Building & Grounds: Chris Pepke – Electrician as working on some odds and ends and discovered burnt wires and cracked wires. We could have had a fire. Front doors – waiting for pricing on hardware. It will take an additional \$6000 to get it to look the same. Roof inspection – nothing crazy was found. Carpet in the Choir Loft – will be installed by the end of the year. Tree Work – trees need to be removed. We had a tree fall on one of neighbor’s home. We need to do this asap. On the east side we need to take out as much brush as possible on Saturday Beautification Day. Suggested that we write a letter to the neighbor who has put lights, a swing and a ladder in our tree. New sump pumps are being installed. 2 TVs have been installed. Brick Project – Cleaning needs to take place after outside work is done. Minimum cost of \$800,000. Does not include tuck pointing. In 1985 we paid \$45,000 (\$200,000 in 2024 money) for just the church – probably will need to add \$400,000 to the \$800,000 for work. Limestone in church – will be cleaned. Lawn Care – Tru Green is \$1700 and we are not happy with their work. Weiss is \$1500. Chris Pepke moved to hire Weiss for our lawn cars; Emilia Linardakis seconded. Unanimously approved. Lighting Project – original budget o \$125,000; Designer, then fixtures, then install \$234,000 (all inclusive) for just the church - \$8,000 for offices; \$57,000 for the MPR.
- d. Technology: Steve Milak (1 min)
- e. Ushering: George Chechopoulos

- i. Sunday School Seating – will be seated in first two rows in aisle between 2 & 3. Concerns were expressed about the signs that had been posted. They will be removed.
- f. Missions: Norm Pomrening - Feed6 scheduled for 1/11/25. We have packed 807,000 meals over the years. We want to get to 1,000,000 meals. We can do it. We have \$18,000 and need another \$15,000 to buy the materials. Discussion followed.

9. Old Business:

- a. Foundation: Jim Maragos – the Selection Committee is open for applications for the Foundation Board of Directors. Hoping to get things done by early January. We are able to accept donations for the Foundation into a restricted account until there is a Foundation account. The PC was asked for names for possible Board members.
- b. Cemetery Plots: Patty Pappas – Joan Berg is involved. Not sure how it will shake out. It will be a slow process. Patty suggests that we start selling the plots that are ok,
- c. Altar Boy Robes: Father Georgiou – they have been approved by the Metropolis. We will get them by the end of the year.
- d. Anniversary Luncheon: Sandy Pihos – ticket sales go live on October 1. Digital Sponsorship goes live on Monday.
- e. Barbara Pappas HARC Tribute: Sandy Pihos – there is a small committee working on this. Push back on Barbara's Bookstore – problem with trademark and Holy Apostles has never names things for a person or family. Committee is working on it. There will be a seminar next month to bring us up to speed. Parishes will NOT have election results ratified unless they are in compliance
- f. Office Reorganization: Jim Maragos – working on scope of duties for Lou and part-time person. Job descriptions will be written into the employee hand book. The position is in the budget for the part time person.
- g. Youth Worker Registration: Patty Pappas – every youth worker including Parish Council members must register, have training once each year and a background check every 2 years. Seminar next month to bring us up to speed. Parishes will NOT have election results ratified unless we are in compliance.

10. New Business:

- a. Parish Assembly Prep: Norm Pomrening – Parish Assembly is 10/6. Announcement of the PA must be sent out 10 days before. There will be a brochure to help sell the Foundation. Messaging for what we are asking of our stewards.
- b. Parish Assembly Coffee Hour: Val Dranias sent around a signup sheet for the Parish Assembly Coffee Hour. PC hosts the coffee hour.

- c. Who is running for the Board of Elections – Greg Vanderakis has volunteered. We need 2 more.
- d. Who is Running for Board of Auditor: Steve Milak asked for suggestions,
- e. New Athletic Directors – Andrea and Warren San Luis. Aleka will help with training.

11. Review of Actions Taken in this Meeting: Norm Pomrening

12. Next Meeting: 10/17

13. Key Dates:

- a. Parish Assembly -10/6
- b. Philoptochos Fashion Show – 10/19
- c. Men’s Ministry Cookout – 10/27
- d. Elections -12/8
- e. Anniversary Luncheon – 12/29
- f. Feed6 – 1/11

14. Closing Prayer: Father Georgiou

15. Adjourn: Norm Pomrening at 9:25 pm.

*Absent: Lena Theotikos and Peter Bell*