

HOLY TAXIARHAI and ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR August 19, 2025

Commencement of Meeting: The Parish Council meeting began at 7:00pm with an opening prayer led by Father Tilemahos. George Giolas acted as Chairman of the meeting. Nick Megremis acted as Recording Secretary.

Attendees: N Megremis, T Rizos, G Houpis, T Sikoral, G Giolas, L Psychogios, G Tziavaras, C Haralampoulou, J Karnezis, D Loomos, E Kiriazopoulos, A Andrews, B Bozikis, G Coolidge, T Zavos, T Bournias, A Calabrese

Absent: A Demeros, P Giannopoulos, A Koutsikos, E Dimoutsikos

Non Voting Attendees: T Kanelos

PARISH OPERATIONS

Treasurer's Report (T Zavos)

Updated Financial Reports were distributed before the meeting by T Zavos.

- **Motion to accept June and July 2025 Financials.**
J Karnezis/2nd E Kiriazopoulos. Vote: 12-0-1. Passed Unanimously.

Key Points:

- Net Operating Income (REVENUE less EXPENSES) currently \$124,000 favorable to planned YTD budget (including SCHOOL)...due to successful Food Fest
- Budget is in excellent position YTD

- Spending \$12,500 less on Ministries than planned. Should increase spending in this area.
- Administrative expenses unexpectedly up vs. plan, by about \$12,000, or 4%.

School Update (Provided by G Anastasiadis)

- A more complete report of the past school year will be provided next month.
- Morning School needs to fill 3 position for the upcoming year.
- Greek School has one open position. Currently has 85 enrolled for Tues/Fri, and 61 enrolled for Saturdays.
- A proposed budget will be presented at the next meeting.
- Schools have received \$25K in donations so far this year.

Outreach (Led by G Giolas)

- Committee hosted a successful food packing event earlier in the month, which included other pan-orthodox churches.
- Still investigating the costs and logistics of sending a container of school supplies to Madagascar, for the orthodox diocese. Total cost will be \$13K-15K for a 20 foot container. Unexpected additional taxes and permits causing delays in planning.
- **Motion to approve expenditure of up to \$20K to ship a container of goods to Madagascar.**
J Karnezis/2nd A Calabrese. Vote: 14-0-1. Passed Unanimously.

Youth Committee (Led by G Coologeorgen)

- Family swim party was successful
- There will be a kick-off meeting this Thursday to discuss the new school year and plan activities.
- Planning a youth trip to Rochester.

Facility Planning Committee (Led by T Bournias)

- Buildout of the new classrooms in the West lobby is almost finished.
- Contractor will also paint the older rooms with a fresh coat.

Iconography (Led by T Bournias)

- Approval of our next phase is pending the review of our 5-Year Vision from the Metropolitan.
- Iconographer has already started sketches.
- There is still \$123K in the Iconography fund.
- Could take up to 4 years to complete the newest project.

Stewardship (Led by N Megremis)

- As of August 19, 2025, 590 Stewards pledged about \$442,500 and have given roughly \$383,500 to date.
- For comparison, at this time last year we had 606 Stewards pledging \$442,000 and given \$360,000.
- Current Median amount is \$600 and the average pledge is about \$700.

Building and Grounds (Led by T Sikoral)

- A reminder to follow up with the office for any maintenance items.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARISH

- **Asphalt resurfacing going well and should be done by Friday**

5-Year Vision 2030 (Led by Fr. Tilemahos)

- Facilitators meetings will take place next week.
- There will be a large meeting September 6th to present ideas.
- After this, we will be ready to present our 5 year plan to both the Metropolis and to the community at large.

Defibrillators (Led by L. Psychogios)

- Three defibrillators have been acquired, and just need to be placed around the campus.
- September 5th will be the next opportunity to take the CPR class at Church. The June class was very well attended. All teachers, coaches, ministry members and council members should take the class.

Food Fest (Led by T Zavos)

- Food Fest was very successful, with \$562K in gross revenue (which was more than last year)
- Total expenses were about \$300K (which also was an increase from last year).
- Net Income will be about \$262K

Iakovos Retreat Center (led by T Sikoral, T Bournias)

- The Metropolis will be hosting a Town Hall on August 20th to discuss the future of the Iakovos Retreat Center. All are encouraged to attend and ask questions.
- T Kanelos and T Bournias provided notes and information from the perspective of the Retreat Center Board.

- **Motion to adjourn meeting.**
 - **J Karnezis/2nd G Coologeorgen. Vote: 16–0-0. Pass Unanimously**

Closing Prayers led by Father T at 10:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Nick Megremis, Recording Secretary