

HOLY TAXIARHAI and ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR February 17, 2026

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

Attendees: N Megremis, T Rizos, G Houpis, T Sikoral, J Karnezis, E Kiriazopoulos, A Andrews, G Coologeorgen, T Bournias, A Demeros, B Bozikis, T Zavos, A Calabrese, C Haralampouloulos, G Tziavaras, J Ksiazek, E Dimoutsikos, A Koutsikos, D Loomos, G Giolas

Absent: L Psychogios

Non Voting Attendees: Anna Prekas and Dr. Dean Velis

PARISH OPERATIONS

Correspondence (T Sikoral)

We received correspondence from the Orthodox Mission Center thanking us for our recent donation.

Minutes (Led by N Megremis)

January Meeting Minutes were distributed to the Parish Council prior to the meeting by N Megremis.

- **Motion to approve January 2026 Meeting Minutes.**
T Zavos/2nd G Coologeorgen. Vote: 16-0-2. Passed Unanimously.

Treasurer's Report (T Zavos)

- Updated Financial Reports were distributed before the meeting by T Zavos for both Year End 2025 and for January 2026.
- The 2025 Full Year Net Operating Income (REVENUE less EXPENSE) was **\$93,000**.
- Revenue up \$49,000 vs. budget, but down \$2000 vs. prior year.
- Budget remains in very good position, but Operating Expenses outpacing Parish Income. Must place focus on increasing income through Stewardship.
- **Motion to accept December 2025 Year End Financials.**
E Kiriazopoulos/2nd G Giolas. Vote: 15-0-2. Passed Unanimously.
- 2026 Net Operating Income (NOI) up nearly \$44,000 versus approved budget through January. Net Operating Income currently at \$38,000.
- Total Revenue up \$23,700 vs budget.
- Stewardship up \$26,000 vs budget (down \$3,000 vs PY)
- **Motion to accept January 2026 Financials.**
E Dimoutsikos/2nd G Tziavaras. Vote: 16-0-2. Passed Unanimously.

Religious Education - Formally Inreach (Led by Father T)

- This new Committee will include Inreach, Sunday school, and Vacation Church School.
- There will be a lecture retreat on March 21st.
- Every Wednesday night during Lent will have a guest speaker come in. Will include a Trivia Night at the end of the series.

Outreach Committee (Led by G Giolas)

- Bessie's Table coming up on Feb 23rd.
- Meals on Wheels will be delivering this coming Saturday.
- We received an outpouring of food for the recent Project Hope food drive.
- Container to Madagascar expected to reach destination around February 27th.
- We are planning to host the "All In" special youth ministry on March 28th.
- Night to Shine was a huge success.
 - 108 Guests (and their parents/caretakers) participated.
 - Spent \$18,600 in total expenses (many services were donated).
 - Net Expenses were \$12,600, but a generous donor has agreed to cover this.
 - Next year's event already set for February 12, 2027. Might look into working with another area Church if we continue to expand.
 - It was suggested to increase the advertisement of this event to make more people aware.

Youth Committee (Led by G Coologeorgen)

- Recent youth events have been well attended.
- Committee has engaged a choir director for our new youth choir. Youth choir can include students grade 3 to High School Seniors.
- Youth Athletics Banquet will be on February 21st.

Facility Planning Committee (Led by T Bournias)

- Next Committee Meeting will be on February 24th and will discuss the committee's agenda for the next year.
- Awaiting approval of grant monies for security and fencing for the school and general Church campus.
- The loft in Church need improvements. Committee will decide its use.
- Condenser for the AC Unit needs to quote before we engage a maintenance company.

Iconography (Led by T Bournias)

- Will be presenting details of the plan at the next General Assembly.
- Proposed contract for Iconographer was shared with the Parish Council.

Building and Grounds (Led by T Sikoral)

- Vents in the Church building are being replaced/updated/cleaned.
- Youtube camera in the Church needs a better cover.
- Need to replace several lightbulbs in the main Church chandelier.

Stewardship (Led by N Megremis)

- As of February 14, 2026, 296 Stewards pledged about \$252,000 and have given roughly \$137,000 to date.
- For comparison, this was almost identical to number at this time last year.
- Currently, the average pledged amount is \$1300.
- At our last Stewardship Committee meeting, we instituted a Welcoming Committee that hope to engage new visitors to our Church. Other ideas include some kind of sign-in book, reserving tables at coffee hour for new guests, and continue to improve Usher organization and training.
- The Committee also spoke about setting flat fees for Sacramental Events that include a portion to go towards Stewardship, specifically for non-Stewards looking to celebrate Weddings and Baptism at our Church. The Committee suggests a flat fee of \$1300 for Weddings and \$1000 for Baptisms.

- **Motion to approve a flat fee of \$1300 for Weddings and \$1000 for Baptisms for non-Stewards for any new bookings.**

T Zavos/2nd G Cooloageorgen. Vote: 19-0-1. Passed Unanimously.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARISH

- We have engaged a Social Media expert to evaluate our Social Media presence. Would like to have a presence that is under one “umbrella” and not individual teams engaging online. Cost to hire this expert will be between \$26,000-\$30,000 to manage all our Social Media platforms (with a concentration on Stewardship, Schools, and Outreach initiatives). Looking to get two bids for this work. Once bids are gathered, motion will be brought to the Parish Council in the March Meeting, and will need General Assembly approval as well.
- The 75th Anniversary Committee has booked the Concord Banquet hall for our gala. Cost per plate charged by Concord is \$125. Committee is proposing charging \$200 per plate to attendees. Additional information on cost will be gathered and presented to the Parish Council at the March meeting for approval of this cost.
- Father Milos will no longer be joining our Church as second priest, and will go back Serbia. The Metropolis will continue to send us Deacons or Priests to help with Sunday Services, but a full-time second priest is still needed.
- The Ambassador from Greece will be joining us on March 8th for Sunday Services.
- **Motion to adjourn meeting.**
E Kiriazopoulos/2nd T Rizzos. Vote: 20-0-0. Pass Unanimously

Closing Prayers led by Father Tilemahos at 9:10pm.

Respectfully submitted by Nick Megremis, Recording Secretary