

HOLY TAXIARHAI and ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR January 20, 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, L Psychogios, J Karnezis, E Kiriazopoulos, A Andrews, G Coologeorgen, T Bournias, A Demeros, B Bozikis, T Zavos, A Calabrese, C Haralampouloulos, G Tziavaras, J Ksiazek

**Absent:** E Dimoutsikos, A Koutsikos, D Loomos, G Giolas

**Non Voting Attendees:** Anna Prekas and Dr. Dean Velis

PARISH OPERATIONS

Officer Elections

- T Rizos nominates Tom Sikoral for President. A Calabrese seconds. Tom accepts. 15-0-0. Passed Unanimously. No other nominations.
- A Calabrese nominates George Giolas for Vice President. T Bournias seconds. 15-0-0. Passed Unanimously. No other nominations.
- A Demeros nominates Tom Zavos for Treasurer. B Bozikis seconds. Tom accepts. 15-0-0. Passed Unanimously. No other nominations.
- Tom Zavos nominates George Houpis for Assistant Treasurer. G Tziavaras seconds. George accepts. 15-0-0. Passed Unanimously. No other nominations.
- Nick Megremis nominates Chris Haralampouloulos for Second Assistant Treasurer. B Bozikis seconds. Chris accepts. 15-0-0. Passed Unanimously. No other nominations.
- Tom Zavos nominates Nick Megremis for Secretary. G Tziavaras seconds. Nick accepts. 15-0-0. Passed Unanimously. No other nominations.
- Tom Sikoral nominates Argy Koutsikos for Assistant Secretary. A Calabrese seconds. 15-0-0. Passed Unanimously. No other nominations.

We welcomed the newest Parish Council Member Joseph Ksiazek.

We also received correspondence from the Metropolis Scholarship Fund thanking us for our recent donation.

### **Minutes (Led by N Megremis)**

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

- **Motion to approve December 2025 Meeting Minutes.**  
**T Zavos/2nd E Kiriazopoulos. Vote: 15-0-0. Passed Unanimously.**

### **Treasurer's Report (T Zavos)**

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

Net Operating Income (REVENUE less EXPENSES) for year end should end up at \$136,000 favorable to planned YTD budget (including SCHOOL).

Revenue up \$49,000 vs. budget, but down \$2000 vs. prior year.

It is recommended that Father Dean's gift will be charged in 2025, and the remaining surplus will move into the reserve fund for Capital Projects.

- **Motion to charge Father Dean's gift in 2025, and the remaining surplus will move into the reserve fund for Capital Projects.**  
**A Calabrese/2nd L Psychogios. Vote: 15-0-0. Passed Unanimously.**

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 Financials: Tabled until February Meeting to gather final numbers.**  
**B Bozikis/2nd L Psychogios. Vote: 13-0-2. Passed Unanimously.**

T Sikoral recommends forming an Investment Committee to make better investment choices for our reserve cash. T Zavos, T Sikoral, and N Megremis volunteer to be part of this new committee, and recommend asking Lambros Konstantellos to join as well.

The grant-writer we hired submitted our grant request to the state of Illinois, which is a request for up to \$200,000 to go towards improving our building security (including updating cameras and doors). We should know by April if it was granted. Federal grants will be submitted soon and could get up to another \$350,000 if approved.

### **Facility Planning Committee (Led by T Bournias)**

- The following are projects planned for 2026, that were already approved at the last General Assembly:
  - New flooring in West Classrooms and upgrades to doors/windows, using funds in the Condes Fund, in the amount of about \$25,000.
  - Plan to update outdoor landscaping and hardscape.
  - Planning fencing along south boarder and around A/C unit. From Capital Projects Fund account. Estimated at \$20,000 but will wait for possible state grant approval first.
  - Look into renovating/improving choir loft, from Capital Projects Fund account. Approved by GA for \$5000.
  - Decor Committee improvements around the hallways, gym, and community center in general, from Capital Projects Fund account. Approved by GA for \$15,000.
  - After these, will also look into getting new doors for the Church, caulking/tuck-pointing multiple areas of the campus, and updating the stage area of the Upper Room.

### **Iconography (Led by T Bournias)**

- The Metropolis office has approved moving forward with our plans, but our request must first go through the BPA Committee review, before Parish Council and General Assembly approval.
- Already a plan in place to add various Saints (with an emphasis on female Saints) along with various Old Testament scenes on the sides and back railing of the choir loft of the Church.

**Religious Education - Formally Inreach (Led by Father T)**

- Father Torrance will be coming to speak on February 9th.
- There will be a lecture retreat on March 21st.
- Every Wednesday night during Lent will have a guest speak come in.
- We are planning to host the “All In” special youth ministry.

**Stewardship (Led by N Megremis)**

- Ended 2025 with 730 Stewards giving \$534,000, which is 97% of our budgeted goal of \$550,000.
- As of January 19, 2026, 195 Stewards pledged about \$164,600 and have given roughly \$70,000 to date.
- For comparison, this was almost identical to number at this time last year.
- Also wanted to thank current and former Parish Council members for their help during our Stewardship Appreciation Luncheon the Sunday before. It was a great success.

**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.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARISH**

- The YAL Conference on February 14-16 is looking for donations/sponsorships. They already have 350 attendees registered, with some young adults from St. Haralambos planning to attend.
- **Motion to approve donating \$2500 to the YAL Conference.**  
**T Sikoral/2nd B Bozikis. Vote: 14-0-1. Passed Unanimously.**

- The 75th Anniversary Kickoff was this past Sunday during the Stewardship Luncheon.
- Our Church is still working with Father Milos to extend his Visa. Still waiting for approval, but the Metropolis will provide us with Deacons to help us for Sunday liturgies until the situation is resolved.
- We will need to hire a bookkeeper to help with our operations accounting and reporting. Job will be posted to collect candidates.
- All Parish Council Members are expected to sign up for at least 3 Visions Committee Teams and attend meetings, which have already been scheduled for the first part of the year.
- **Motion to adjourn meeting.**  
**G Coologeorgen/2nd Kiriazopoulos. Vote: 15-0-0. Pass Unanimously**

Closing Prayers led by Father Tilemahos at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Nick Megremis, Recording Secretary