

HOLY TAXIARHAI and ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR March 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, B Bozikis, T Zavos, A Calabrese, C Haralampoulou, J Ksiazek, E Dimoutsikos, D Loomos, L Psychogios

Absent: A Andrews, G Cooloageorgen, T Bournias, A Demeros, G Tziavaras, A Koutsikos, G Giolas

Non Voting Attendees: Anna Prekas

PARISH OPERATIONS

Correspondence (T Sikoral)

We received a Thank You note from Father Dean for our gift.

Minutes (Led by N Megremis)

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

- **Motion to approve February 2026 Meeting Minutes.**
L Psychogios/2nd E Dimoutsikos. Vote: 11-0-0. Passed Unanimously.

Treasurer's Report (T Zavos)

- Updated Financial Reports were distributed before the meeting by T Zavos for February Financials.
- Net Operating Income (REVENUE less EXPENSE) was \$46,000. Up \$69,000 vs. budget for 2026.
- Total Revenue up \$52,000 vs. budget.
- Total Expenses up \$12,500 vs. budget, but down vs. last year.
- **Motion to accept February 2026 Financials.
E Kiriazopoulos/2nd L Psychogios. Vote: 9-0-3. Passed Unanimously.**

Religious Education (Led by Father T)

- The Oratorical Festival took place last week and there were many great entries.
- 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: April 1st.

Outreach Committee (Led by T Sikoral)

- Container to Madagascar expected to reach destination.
- We are planning to host the "All In" special youth ministry on March 28th.
- Recent Meal Packing event was well attended.

Facility Planning Committee (Led by T Sikoral)

- There are many items in and around the Church that need maintenance, including: Vents in the Church, Adhesive on the floor of the school, light bulbs and light fixtures in the Church.

Stewardship (Led by N Megremis)

- As of March 17, 2026, 387 Stewards pledged about \$330,000 and have given roughly \$208,000 to date.
- For comparison, this was almost identical to number at this time last year, but both up about \$70,000 since last month.
- Currently, the average pledged amount is \$852 and the Median pledged amount is \$600. 61 Families are contributing under \$100 for the year.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARISH

- There will be a sign-up sheet sent out for ushers for Holy Week. We need all hands on deck, so everyone is encouraged to help when they can and invite others.
- We will need to set up the Upper Room next door to use as an overflow room. George Houpis will work with Perry to set up the technology to stream the services.
- We will need to rope off the middle section of the Narthex for Holy Saturday night.
- Parish Member Maria Haralambopoulos was suggested to serve as our Social Media Consultant. A new Committee to oversee our Social Media will need to be created. Joe Ksiazek and George Houpis volunteered to be co-chairs. Will need to also incorporate marketing for our 75th Anniversary Campaign.

- **Motion to approve the hiring of Maria Haralambopoulos as our new Social Media Consultant for the fee of \$16 per hour, with a maximum of \$2500 up to 160 hours for the first 30 days. J Ksiazek/2nd G Houpis.**
J Ksiazek/2nd G Houpis. Vote: 12-0-0. Pass Unanimously
- The 75th Anniversary Committee recommends that we charge \$225 per adult. This covers the cost of the dinner.
- **Motion to approve the 75th Anniversary Committee's recommendation to charge \$225 per adult ticket for the gala.**
T Zavos/2nd N Megremis. Vote: 11-0-2. Pass Unanimously
- There is a Philoptochos reunion planned for April 25th and a GOYA/YAL reunion planned for October 2nd.
- A reminder from Father T that during Holy Week (as always) the Ushers and the Welcoming Committee must keep the Narthex quiet and respectable.
- Fr. Tuda is here for 3 months (end of May) to help us until we find a permanent second priest.
- On March 27, Fr. Dionisios is being ordained as a bishop. He will also be joining us for Palm Sunday liturgy.
- The Greek Parade in downtown Chicago will take place on April 19. Our youth and ministries will be participating.
- **Motion to approve the the payment of \$750 for the participation fee for this year's Greek Heritage Parade.**
T Zavos/2nd D Loomis. Vote: 12-0-1. Pass Unanimously
- **Motion to adjourn meeting.**
E Kiriazopoulos/2nd L Psychogios. Vote 13-0-0. Pass Unanimously

Closing Prayers led by Father Tilemahos at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted by Nick Megremis, Recording Secretary