

St. George Greek Orthodox Church General Assembly Meeting Minutes November 21, 2021

Call to Order:

Parish Council President Namaz Habroun-Pimental called the meeting to order at 11:50 a.m.

Opening Prayer:

Father Joseph led us in prayer.

Quorum Call:

Parish Council Secretary Tom Drulias confirmed that a quorum is present.

Election of Meeting Chair:

Tom Drulias nominated Ted Budy as Meeting Chair and Ted accepted.

Election of Meeting Secretary:

Nikoli Hackleman nominated Tom Drulias as Meeting Secretary and Tom accepted.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Stephen Strategos made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2019 General Assembly meeting.

Nicole Strategos 2nd, motion passed.

Priest's Comments:

Father Joseph stated that when he came to this Church the Parish was not united and he was inexperienced. Father added that he stayed for 24 years and he brought unity to the Parish. Father listed the following projects which were completed over the years:

1. The handicap ramp was installed.
2. Replacement of the bell towers.

3. The carpeting in the Solea was replaced with a marble floor.
4. The ceiling in the Church was redone.
5. Protective coverings were installed over the stained glass windows in the Church.
6. The asphalt parking lot in the park was replaced with cement.
7. Solar panels were installed in the parking lot.
8. The bathrooms in the hall and Sunday School building were remodeled.
9. All lighting fixtures were converted to LED lighting.

Father added that our goal has been to make this place an edifice to God.

President's Comments:

Namaz stated that during the year 2020 we went through unprecedented times, but by the grace of God we pushed through the tough times and did all the changes necessary to accommodate the needs of the parishioners. Namaz added that services were live streamed, Zoom meetings were held with all the ministries, a PPP loan/grant was obtained, Stavros Emery was hired as a pastoral assistant, and the 2020 takeout Festival was successful. Namaz also stated that the 2021 Festival was successful, and for the past year, we have been renting out the Sunday School classrooms to Heartland Charter School, and the state of the Parish is strong. Namaz added that we are preparing for the transition with Father Joseph moving on and this should take place about mid-December, and Father Jim and Father Christian from the Fresno Parish will serve temporarily as substitute priests.

Treasurer's Report and 2022 Budget:

Treasurer Osama Dawood presented the proposed budget for 2022 which has total revenue of \$340,500 and total expenses of \$339,950 for a net income of \$550.

Tom Drulias made a motion to approve the 2022 Budget.

Nicole Strategos 2nd, motion passed.

Osama presented the financial Profit and Loss report through October 2021. Total income is \$295,188.58 and total expenses are \$254,555.83 for net ordinary income of \$40,632.75.

Ministries Reports:

Stewardship Report:

Danny Andrews stated that he and Osama are co-chairs for this committee, and stewardship is being a caretaker for what God has given us. Danny added that the goal of Church life is giving 10% of your earnings which is called tithing and we should strive to incrementally increase our giving by 1% each year. Danny also stated that through October 2021, we have received approximately \$130,000 in stewardship revenue, and we have 84 members/families contributing toward stewardship.

Osama stated that stewardship is giving of your time, talents, and treasures.

Festival Report:

Osama presented a spreadsheet for the 2021 Festival which included revenue generated by each booth and the expense allocated to each booth. Osama reported that total revenue was \$141,442 and total expenses were \$51,975 for net income of \$89,467.

2021 Festival Co-Chair Ted Budy stated that we need all hands on deck to have a Festival, and so far a date has not been set for the 2022 Festival. Ted added that he would like to have a post-Festival meeting, and we may have to re-think overlapping with the Kern County Fair. Ted also stated that he will be stepping down as the non-food booth co-chair.

Outreach:

Danny stated that he wants St. George to be known for what it gives out to the community, and serving God is not just about covering your expenses. Rather, it's about helping as many people as possible.

Philoptochos:

Namaz reported that Joyce Cisneros is handling the Church Christmas card, and the donation amount is ten dollars.

Sunday School:

Pastoral Assistant Stavros Emery reported that Sunday School attendance has been low, and the high school age kids have the highest number attending. Stavros added that he has a good group of teachers, and James and Jenny Dean are no longer able to teach the youngest age group.

Dance Group:

Dance director Nikoli Hackleman stated that he took over the dance group from Soula Schoell a few years ago, and he added that parents should encourage their kids to show up to dance practice/Church activities, and he gets discouraged at the poor turnout. Nikoli also stated that he would really like to see more young adults in the 20 to 25 year old age group involved in Church activities.

Investment Committee:

Osama stated that Danny, Julie Pierucci, and Osama are on the investment committee, and they are looking for 3 more parishioners to join this committee. Osama added that there is approximately \$25,000 in this investment fund. Danny stated that they are now saving money by self-investing instead of using an outside investment company.

Bookstore:

Bookstore director Julie Pierucci stated that things are going well in the bookstore, and Julie added that she could use a helper. Michelle Emery offered to assist Julie with the bookstore. Julie also stated that she is still livestreaming in the hall the Diving Liturgy service.

Social Media:

David Brits stated that Jim Southerd asked David to do the report. David thanked Presbyteria Despina Chaffee for handling the Church bulletin, and he stated that parishioners can go to the Church's website to receive the bulletin, and donations can be made through Paypal. David

added that there are 3 groups on Facebook which are the general Church page, the Outreach page, and the private Parish group page.

Goya/Youth Group:

Stavros stated that Joyce Cisneros has been handling the Youth Group, and Joyce has been hosting activities at her house.

Choir:

Ted Budy stated that since Covid there has been a limited number of parishioners who are singing in the choir. Ted added that we need people to step up and join the Choir.

Danny stated that we may want to check with the local college and junior college to see if there are music students who may want to come sing in the Choir.

Benevolence:

Nicole Strategos stated that this ministry started about 20 years ago, and this ministry operates anonymously, and it receives donations from parishioners to help individuals/families in our Parish. Nicole added that they help with basic needs like food or possibly covering a rent or PG & E payment.

The Pantry:

Namaz stated that she and Mary Mekhel have started up this ministry and the old office in the hall will be used for this purpose. Namaz added that this ministry will be called The St. John Blessing Corner and it will be open one or two days per week and on Sundays, and will provide canned foods, shoes, clothes, hygiene items, etc. to individuals from the public. Namaz also stated that they are looking for donations from parishioners and additional volunteers.

New Business:

Danny stated that he and Osama have been asked to help re-start the Antiochian Mission in Bakersfield. The Priest is Father Paul who lives in Los Angeles, and is paid a stipend to come to Bakersfield and conduct services. Danny added that the Antiochian Mission is basically starting from scratch, and he and Osama are part of the transition team.

Parish Council Nominations:

Chairman Ted Budy reported that the expiring terms are for Chuy Cisneros, Osama Dawood, Tom Drulias, and Nikoli Hackleman.

1. Olympia Hackleman nominated Christopher Key.
2. Nicole Strategos nominated Tom Drulias.
3. Soula Schoell nominated Nikoli Hackleman.
4. Danny Andrews nominated Osama Dawood.
5. Danny Andrews nominated Chris McNaughton.
6. Olympia Hackleman nominated Julia Maria Nguyen.

Danny Andrews moved to close nominations, Nicole Strategos 2nd, nominations closed.

Election of Election Committee:

1. Namaz Habroun-Pimental nominated Michelle Emery.
2. Namaz Habroun-Pimental nominated Kathy Exarchoulakos.
3. Tom Drulias nominated David Brits.

Election Committee nominations approved.

Election of Audit Committee:

1. Olympia Hackleman nominated Nicole Strategos.
2. Nicole Strategos nominated Stephen Strategos.
3. Olympia Hackleman nominated Lacey Key.

Audit Committee nominations approved.

Set Election Date:

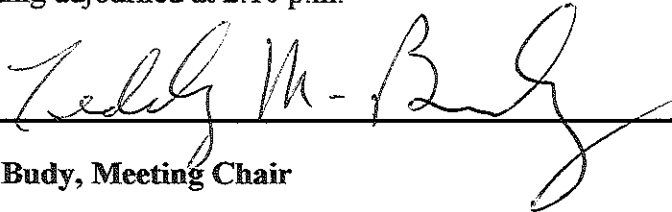
Election date will be Sunday, December 12th.

Closing Prayer:

Father Joseph led the closing prayer.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.



Ted Body, Meeting Chair

Father Joseph Chaffee, Priest



Tom Drulias, Meeting Secretary