GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

2015 CLERGY LAITY ASSEMBLY MEETING

PLENARY SESSION MEETING

Saturday, September 26, 2015

MINUTES

The Plenary Session of the 2015 Clergy Laity Assembly of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh was convened by His Eminence Metropolitan Savas on Saturday, September 26, 2015, at the Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Cleveland Heights, OH, at 10:00 a.m. with a prayer.

The Metropolitan welcomed the Clergy and Laity to the Plenary Session and began the business of the Session by appointing Archon Nicholas G. Loutsion to serve as Chair for the Plenary Session and Archon Peter Clyde Papadakos to serve as Secretary for the Plenary Session. Dr. Loutsion and Mr. Papadakos accepted the appointments and the Chair began the meeting by asking the Assembly to review the Minutes from the September 28, 2014 Clergy Laity Assembly Plenary Session. Following their review, it was moved by Mr. Harry Rosco and seconded by Father Milanese to accept the Minutes, as filed. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

The Chair offered comments on how well organized the meetings were at this year’s Assembly but also urged that more lay participation is needed. The Chair next asked the Philoptochos to offer their report.

Mrs. Thomas presented the Metropolis Philoptochos report, a copy of which was filed with the Minutes. Following her presentation, the report was accepted by the Assembly, with its thanks.

The Chancellor next offered his report. He reported on ongoing repairs at the Metropolis; upcoming events like the Daffodil Luncheon (being hosted by the Cleveland Communities in March of 2016), the 3rd St. Photios Awards Banquet (to be held on May 7, 2016 at the Sheraton Hotel in Pittsburgh), the St. Sava day celebration on December 5 at the Metropolis and the ongoing work to complete audits for 2012, 2013 and 2014. He noted that the Metropolis website would be revamped as soon as the Archdiocesan website is also revamped. He also noted that Vicar appointments are working well and he commended the Metropolis staff for its hard work and positive results. He looked forward to some stewardship interns next summer as a pilot program being funded through the Archdiocese. Finally, he thanked all those present for participating in this year’s Assembly events.
The Chancellor next explained the election procedures to take place at this Assembly Session for the election of Lay and Clergy representatives to the Metropolis Council.

The Administrative Committee Report was presented by Father Touloumes and Archon Lekas. Their written report was filed with the minutes and following its presentation, it was moved by Fr. Varvarelis and seconded by Fr. Petrides to accept the report as filed. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

The Finance Committee gave the Treasurer’s Report and presented the 2016 Budget. A written report was filed with the Minutes. Following the presentation of the Treasurer’s Report Mr. Dreis moved to accept the report, as filed. Mr. Roscos seconded the motion. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously. Following the presentation of the 2016 Budget, Archon Lekas moved to accept the Budget, as presented and filed. Mr. Athanasiou seconded the motion. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Fr. Keares presented the Greek Education Committee report, a written copy of which was filed with the minutes. Following the presentation, Fr. Varvarelis moved and Fr. Livanos seconded a motion to accept the report, as filed. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chancellor presented a summary report for the Religious Education Committee. Following the summary, Fr. Milanese moved and Ms. Doreza seconded a motion to approve the report. The motion passed unanimously.

Fr. Petrides presented a report for the Stewardship Committee, a written copy of which was filed with the minutes. In addition to the written report the Committee asked the minutes to reflect the Committees recommendation that the laity needs to increase its participation in the Metropolis Stewardship program. Following the presentation of the report, Ms. Doreza moved and Mr. Kolitsas seconded a motion to approve the report. The motion passed unanimously.

Fr. Di Steffano presented a report for the Youth, a written copy of which was filed with the minutes. Following the presentation of the report, Mr. Harbillas moved to accept the report. Father Keares seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Archon Kusturiss presented a report on behalf of the New Metropolis Center Special Committee. He explained the Committee was working with Architect Lucas Bartochewitz on the plans for the building and where it would be situated on the 9.5 acre tract of land. He also reported that at the next Clergy Laity Assembly more complete plans would be available and a visit to the site would, hopefully, be arranged. The Session accepted the report.

No old business was discussed.

In new business, Angel Kusturiss asked that the Metropolis give serious consideration to the reestablishment of a day school, like the THEOS school. The Metropolitan thanked Ms.
Kusturiss for the suggestion and agreed that a school should be reestablished in a central location to serve the Orthodox community and agreed to establish a committee for such purpose.

In response to a question from Archon Lekas, the Chancellor gave an update report on the status of the work of the Joint Greek Orthodox-Carpatho-Russian Committee at Camp Nazareth. He reported that Phase One of the partnership was well underway. This would include improvements to the cabins (addition of full bathrooms, heat and air condition, addition of a common room and front porch) and improvements for the water, pumping and septic system. Phase Two would include expansion and improvements to the Camp lodge and is in the planning stage.

The Chancellor next presented the results of the Metropolis Council Election. After thanking the Election Committee for its work, the Chancellor announced that the following eight individuals had been elected to two years terms (2016-2018) on the Metropolis Council:


Pursuant to the election procedures, Fr. Livanos made a motion, seconded by Fr. Varvarelis to delegate to the Clergy Syndesmos, the selection of eight members of the clergy to serve two year terms (2016-2018) on the Metropolis Council and to hold such election at the Spring 2016 Clergy Syndesmos Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The Metropolitan next nominated Archon Kusturiss and Archon Papadakos to two year terms (2016-2018) on the Archdiocese Council. Archon Sellas made this in the form of a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Drakas. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no other new business, the Assembly Resolutions were read and discussed, written copies of which were filed with these minutes. In addition to the presented Resolutions it was agreed that the Resolutions Committee would prepare Resolutions in the support of IOCC’s efforts in assisting Greece with the refugee crisis and another resolution would be prepared in support of the value of the human person (from the womb, in life and through the process of dying) as one of the great truths of Orthodox theology. Fr. Petrides moved to accept these Resolutions and Mr. Galitzes seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Chair thanked the Assembly for its work and next asked His Grace Bishop Gregory of Nyssa to offer his comments. He thanked the Metropolitan for the gracious invitation to attend the Assembly and he also thanked the Metropolis for its support of Camp Nazareth and partnership in improving the facilities.

The Metropolitan also offered his Arch-pastoral reflections on all the positive work accomplished at this Clergy Laity Assembly and he looked forward to next year’s Assembly when we will have much more to say about the new Metropolis Center. He thanked the Sts. Constantine and Helen Cathedral Community for its preparation for the Assembly, for its
hospitality and outstanding meals. He also thanked the Chair and Secretariat and also thanked the Metropolis staff for its work in preparing for the Assembly and Plenary Session. Finally, the Metropolitan thanked all the participants at the Assembly for attending, for offering their comments and advice on all the programs of the Metropolis and he looked forward to seeing Clergy and Laity at the next gathering.

There being no further business, the Plenary Session was adjourned at 1:15 p.m. with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Clyde Papadakos
Secretary