



Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco CHURCH MUSIC FEDERATION WINTER BUSINESS MEETING

Castro Valley, California
January 17, 2015

MINUTES

President Liz Levy called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Father Michael Prevas led the group in the opening prayer and offered greetings from his parish.

Secretary Kay Harkins reported the delegate status: 21 people representing 10 parishes registered as official delegates at the beginning of the meeting.

- Minutes of the Summer Business Meeting were presented in hardcopy form; Mario DiGiovanni motioned for the approval; Linus Hollis seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer Costa Kourtis presented the budget and expenditures with handouts of the Balance Sheet and a detailed and informative Budgeted vs. Actual Profit and Loss spread sheet. The total liabilities and equity for the Federation are \$59,440.27.

- He reported some research he had done in finding more viable investment possibilities for the Federation's assets and asked for a committee to assist him in making recommendations to the board. Meg Jakovas agreed to assist him.

Stewardship and Membership Chairman Mario DiGiovanni reported that the 2013-2014 fiscal year dues and stewardship campaign ended July 31, 2014. Total receipts for the 2013-2014 fiscal years were \$9,254: \$1935 for 23 adult and 6 youth program dues and \$7,310 in stewardship averaging \$28.12 per steward. For the current year, the Listserv mailing and paper mailing took place the first week of November. By the opening of the Winter Business Meeting (January 17, 2015), the Federation had received a total of \$4,495 in dues and stewardship or less than 50% of the prior year total. Parish dues were received from 8 parishes for total dues of \$670. Stewardship was received totaling \$3825 from 111 people averaging \$34.46 each.

- A significant discussion ensued regarding the low response of parishes remitting their dues. There was general agreement that motivation and encouragement for parish participation in the Federation should come from the top. Father Michael Prevas offered to draft a letter that the Metropolitan could endorse and sign to send to the parish priests, parish council presidents, and music directors of all the parishes to show his strong support of parish participation in the Federation.

- Regional administrators will gather current information on priests, parish council presidents, and directors to have ready when the letter is forthcoming from the Metropolitan.

Mario DiGiovanni and Chris Vitakes gave a short report on the 2014 Summer Conference, referring the group to the article in the most recent In-Choir-Er, which was attached to the agenda. The conference was profitable (\$8,700 to be split 3 ways), which hosted 90 adult and 10 youth attendees. They gave advice to **Athena Mertes**, whose parish in Las Vegas will host the 2015 conference.

The Regional Administrators made brief reports on their current outreach activities.

Chris Vitakes reported that three George M. George awards were given this year, that there was no awardee for either the Kathy Trapp. The Xenia Anton Desby Memorial Organ Scholarship was won by Karen Hutchinson of Belmont Holy Cross.

Tikey Zes reported that the CMIs held in Irvine and Scottsdale were very successful with good attendance and excellent presentations. There are two more upcoming CMIs in San Francisco and Seattle. There was no Central California CMI this year.

The 2015 Summer Conference will feature his Bi-lingual liturgy and more participation by the youth choir.

- There was continued discussion of the Metropolitan's desire to support congregational singing. Delegates and board were in agreement that the Annual Conference liturgy is a poor venue for introducing congregational singing.

Athena Mertes gave an informative preview of the **2015 Summer Conference** hosted by her parish, St. John the Baptist in Las Vegas, NV. The hotel will be New York, New York, and many fun activities will be available for the youth there during the conference. The registration fees are reasonable as are the hotel rates. (Adult reg. \$199; Youth reg. \$60; hotel, \$55 weeknight, \$115 weekend conference rates June 23-30.) There will be a drawing for those registered by March 31. Information and registration packet will be out soon.

OLD BUSINESS:

President Liz Levy gave a recap of her meeting with Metropolitan Gerasimos, who is still encouraging the Federation to support congregational singing and all aspects youth music ministry through parish music programs and the Sunday schools. The Metropolitan was somewhat supportive of changing the time of the annual conference but in favor of the month of October. Liz will revisit this soon.

The Youth Music Minister position was discussed with a recap given on the progress so far. A suggestion was made to consider having a Youth Music Minister for each region as a volunteer position but supported with Federation funding for travel, materials, etc. The board will be discussing this in upcoming meetings.

NEW BUSINESS:

Athena Anastos presented the work of her committee on the Scholarship Program for the Annual Conference, including the requirements and forms. Dushan Radosavljevic moved to approve the program and forms, Terry Kastanis seconded, and they were approved

unanimously. Terry Kastanis then moved to allocate \$1,000 funds for the pilot year of the program; Eva Canellos seconded the motion and the proposal passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Harkins, Secretary