



HOLY TRINITY

ROMANIAN AMERICAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Holy Trinity Romanian American Orthodox Church Jan. 22, 2023 Annual General Assembly Meeting Minutes

At the Parish Council Meeting of January 05, 2023, it was voted that the First Parish Annual Meeting of the Holy Trinity Romanian American Orthodox Church in Los Angeles, since the Parish joined Metropolia ROMA, be called to order, under the provisions of the Metropolia ROMA's Statutes and Parish Manuals (Chapter XXXVI - Parish Assembly, Article 36.01 & Article 36.02 and Chapter XXV – Parishioners, Article 25.04), for Sunday January 22, 2023 at 1:00 pm, immediately after the Divine Liturgy, in Church, at the above address, for the Election of the Parish Council/The Parish General Assembly, 2023.

It was also decided that, in the Convocation letter be sent to ALL the 2022 members of the HTRAOC, together with an Application for Membership under the Metropolia ROMA, stating clearly that only those “parishioners in good standing” of the Church, who have submitted to the parish office, the new Membership Application under ROMA, and have met their stewardship obligations to the Parish (Chapter XXXVI - Parish Assembly, Article 36.01 & Article 36.02), have the right to vote at the January 22, 2023. No person shall be deemed a parishioner in good standing while not adhering to the standards outlined in Articles 25.01 and 25.02; and defies the jurisdiction or the ecclesiastical authority of the Archdiocese/Metropolia ROMA (Chapter XXV – Parishioners, Article 25.04).

The meeting was held on the premises of the Church (address above), starting at 1:00 pm, with the invocation prayer offered by Father Constantin Alecse.

The 2023 General Assembly roster was signed by 57 (out of a total number of 75) parish paid members for 2022, who present at the meeting. The Treasurer and the Parish Office made the announcement that the number of the parishioners in ‘good standing’, who submitted the new Parish Membership Applications under ROMA, and have met their stewardship obligations to the Parish.

With the General Assembly roster completed and the quorum needed for the meeting met, the Assembly President declared the meeting constitutionally opened.

The presidium was appointed: Fr. Constantin Alecse, parish priest and president of the Assembly, Edvart Rastian, President of the Parish Council, Claudia Pugna, Secretary, for Romanian, Reggie Dysannayake, Secretary for English, Mary Comboianu, President of the Ladies Auxiliary, Antoaneta Rastian, Controller (I) and Marian Baron, Parliamentarian. The Assembly accepted the appointed presidium by acclamation.

In his introduction, Fr Constantin informed the Assembly that being a new parish under Metropolia ROMA, everyone should pay maximum attention to the rules, regulations and guidelines of the Metropolia ROMA, found in the Statutes, Parish Guidelines/Manual, Conflict of Interest Policy, Sexual Misconduct Policy, Abbreviated Guidelines for the Parish Councils (copy distributed to all the parish council members, at the January 5, 2023 meeting), Forms to be signed, Petitions/Requests, etc., which are provided by ROMA either by mail, email or simply posted on the Metropolia website (Romanian and English).

The first item on the agenda was the Approval of the Agenda itself. Although the Agenda was mailed out to all members of the parish, yet copies were distributed to all the participants. Due to certain important activities developed since the Agenda was mailed-out to the church parishioners, 2 more items were added to the Agenda: (a) 'The Anghioiu Case' for sexual misconduct allegations of some 50 years ago against Fr Richard Grabowski, former parish priest of the HTROC (1970-1982), and (b).The Status of the Sale of the Beverly Hills condominium. Mariana Cadia made the motion to accept the agenda as presented, incorporating the 2 items specified above, seconded by Chirata Stavrositu. The vote was taken. All voted in favor of the motion.

The 2nd item on the agenda was the reading of the last Parish Council Meeting of January 5, 2023, read in English by Reggie Dissanayake (English Secretary). Mary Comboianu made the motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Daniela Saffari. Motion passed with unanimous votes.

The presentation and voting on the reports. The parish reports came from Edvart Rastian, the Parish Council President (a 6-page/20-point report), Mary Comboianu. the Ladies Auxiliary President (a four pages report), and Fr. Constantin Alecse, the Parish Priest (who presented the participants the "Letter of Appreciation" offered by the Parish Council to Fr. Constantin Alecse, on August 14, 2022, on his 40 years Ministry at the helm of the Holy Trinity Church. All these printed reports were distributed to all the parish members in attendance. Mrs Filofteea Turlacu made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Sabina Popescu, to accept with thanks and gratitude all three (3) above mentioned reports. The motion was voted by acclamation.

The Treasurer's Financial Report for 2022 - Reggie read the language on the first page of the 2022 Financial Report Statement advised the parish members in attendance that the report was the unaudited version. Reggie briefly discussed the 2022 expenses for the HTRAOC concerning the legal fees on the last page of the 2022 Financial Statement and reminded the parish members of all the necessary legal work which went into disassociating the HTRAOC from the ROEA and the beginning of a new chapter with the ROMA. Reggie further advised the parish members that effective as of 01-01-2023, the HTRAOC has hired a very reputable and highly recommended CPA firm to perform monthly booking, reconciliation and auditing for the church along with the delivery of quarterly reports for the parish's review and publication. Christian Calugarita, and his wife Ana, questioned a minor discrepancy on the 2022 year-end Treasurer's unaudited report. However, as stated on the report itself along with Reggie oral presentation to the parish members, both he and Father Alecse reminded the parish members that the report was unaudited, and the CPA firm is in the process of completing a full reconciliation for 2022 which will be delivered to the HTRAOC Parish Council for Auditing by the end of March 2023, and submitted to the Metropolia Office for review. Viorica Scopu made the motion that we should send the Metropolia's Office only the 1st page of the Report titled "Financial Report – Statement of the Parish Council for the 2022", and the Full Financial Report when completed by the CPA, and audited by the Church's Controllers. The motion was seconded by Mariana Cadia and Christian Calugarita. All voted in favor of the motion, without opposition or abstention.

The approval of the 2023 Projected Budget – The Treasurer and the Parish Office presented a Projected Budget for 2023. The proposed budget, distributed to all the participants, consisted of projections based on previous years parish financial activities. Some discussions and questions were raised by Ion Anton, Ionel Radu, Christian & Ana Calugarita, and Edvart Rastian, regarding ways of raising funds to meet the budget. Fr Alecse also commented and gave some suggestions on possible ways of raising funds by involving more of the outside parishioners, such as establishing a few committees focused only on fund raising like: Tithes, collecting the membership on time, enrolling more members in the church, initiate new social and cultural activities, reactivating some old ones (picnics, monthly dinners, etc), reactivate the youth activities, investing more in the Youth, promoting Orthodoxy through social media (Youtube, FaceBook platforms, and the like), etc... Anatol Rezmeritza made the motion to accept the proposed corrected Budget. Motion was seconded by Ion Anton and Gina Cataloiu. All participants voted in favor of the motion to accept the proposed budget for 2023.

The purpose of the following two reports, added today on the AGENDA, is for information only and therefore the reports don't need any voting upon:

A). 'The Anghioiu Case' of sexual misconduct allegations against Fr Richard Grabowski.

Father Alecse requested Reggie to discuss the recent activities surrounding the Anghioiu Sexual allegations case regarding misconduct to a minor by the former priest (Father Gabrowski – whose son is currently directly affiliated with the ROEA) where the allegations are yet to be proven.

Reggie advised the parish members in attendance that he has been working alongside the parish legal counsel to identify a firm that specializes in the investigation of old insurance policies as the HTRAOC currently has no record of any active insurance policy in the archives for the period in question. Reggie further advised a firm has been identified and we are in the process of negotiating terms with the company, so we can engage the contract to have the third-party company begin the investigation of a potential insurance policy from the early 1970s. Reggie additionally advised the parish members in attendance that after discussing the case in with the legal counsel, counsel has advised the following.

- The plaintiff would need to prove every claim they're making with medical records, doctor's visits, psychological treatment they received, and any additional evidence to prove such damages. Furthermore, the plaintiff would also have to answer to the reason she waited 50 years to file the allegations.
- Legal counsel advised recently both the states of California and New York extended the statute of limitation on sexual allegation claims, so both states have seen a significant increase in these types of cases filed.
- Legal counsel will also be attending a hearing on January 25th regarding this sexual allegation case and will advise Reggie of the outcome of the hearing.
- There is a possibility the ROEA may be responsible to resolving/remediating this sexual allegation case as they were the governing spiritual body of the HTRAOC (then HTROC) during the period in question.

B). Brenda George, the HTRAOC realtor and parish member, was invited to speak to the parish assembly on the status of the sale of the Beverly Hills condominium.

- Brenda advised all in attendance that the current offer we countered was not accepted by the buyer, but she potentially has a couple of other buyers. Brenda also stated she will be using some more aggressive marketing tactics to attract more buyers, so we can achieve a sale closer to fair market value.
- Brenda did state her concern regarding the sexual allegations case and questioned if that would have an impact on the sale itself as a pending litigation/lien.
- Eddie & Reggie both confirmed there is currently no lien on the HTRAOC with the case.
- Brenda requested confirmation from the HTRAOC's legal counsel if the case would have any impediment on the sale of the BH condominium. Reggie advised Brenda he will confirm with legal counsel and get back to her.

The election of the Parish Council and delegates for the Eparchial Congress and Deanery, for a 2 years term. Paula Matei, the Chair of the Nominating Committee presented, with the motion to accept the SLATE with 15 Members of for the Parish Council, 2 delegate-members for the Eparchial Congress and 2 delegate-members for the Deanery. List of the Slate is herewith attached. The motion was seconded by Elena Calmus and Getta Jercan. Having no discussions or comments, all members voted unanimously the slate, applauding after the voting and the motion was taken.

Proposals and discussions.

- Getta Jercan made the motion to invite His Eminence Metropolitan Nicolae to visit our parish this year, as soon as feasible. The motion was seconded by Sabina Popescu and Claudia Pugna. After some discussions regarding the logistics of such a first visit, since our church was accepted in the Metropolia ROMA, including establishing a budget for such a protocolar visit, all accepted the

motion as a recommendation to the next parish council to have this project as a priority on its 2023 Agenda.

- Antoaneta Rastian made a motion, seconded by Mary Comboianu to establish a Committee to Organize and work-out the details for the next year's celebration of our Church (the 85th Anniversary!). After some discussions, the participants voted the motion to recommend to the next parish council to consider 'this project' as a priority on its 2023 Agenda.
- As final comments, Father Alecse stressed the importance of the members of parish to take a greater initiative in the activities of the church throughout the year, so the HTRAOC can once again, focus their efforts on bringing the youth back to the church through youth programs, as a church is only as strong as it's youth.

After all the items on the AGENDA were discussed, and the last point Proposals and discussions, fully addressed, Fr Alecse (Assembly's President) entertained a motion to close the meeting. Vasile Luca made the motion, seconded by Viorica Hrimiuc and Brenda George, to close the meeting. The meeting ended around 3:30 pm., with the Hymn to the Mother of God: 'Cuvine-se cu Adevarat!'.

Respectfully submitted,



Fr. Constantin Alecse
Parish Priest &
Assembly President



Claudia Pugna
Secretary (Romanian)



Reggie C. Dyssanayake
Secretary (English)

