

HOLY TRINITY ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Fr. Constantin Alecse, Parish Priest

14 August 2022

The Parish Council Meeting of 14th August 2022

ROEA's proposal for Special General Assembly meeting 28th August 2022

Council Resolution

On Sunday, 14th August 2022, the Parish Council held its monthly meeting, starting at 1:00 pm, at the end of the Divine Liturgy, according to the convocation made by Edward Rastian, the Parish Council President and Claudia Dana Pugna, the Secretary.

The meeting, which was held in the Church, address above, started with the invocation prayer made by the parish priest.

A number of 14 members of the council answered "present" to the roll call. The agenda with 9 points, delivered to all members of the parish council, was unanimously approved.

The 7th point on the agenda was the discussion on The 'ROEA's letter dated July 27, 2022, addressed to the Parish Council and the Faithful of the Holy Trinity Church, giving instructions to convoke a Special General Assembly for the date of August 28 2022.

Although the stated letter was printed and distributed to all members of the Parish Council, the President asked the Secretary to read the main paragraphs of the letter, directly quoting His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel's words "... on June 30, 2022, we sent a letter to Father Constantin blessing and granting him retirement from the office of Parish Priest of Holy Trinity Parish in Los Angeles, California, effective September 15, 2022. We intend to assign the next parish priest without delay so he can start his pastorate at Holy Trinity Parish after, September 15, 2022 to ensure the continuity of the liturgical life and the pastoral care of all the faithful. According to the By-Laws of the Episcopate, a General Assembly of the faithful members must be called to establish the salary and the remuneration for the next parish priest whom we will assign. It is our intention that the Parish General Assembly take place on Sunday, August 28, 2022, chaired by our representative, Very Rev Father Remus Grama. According to the By-Laws, because you are a member of the Parish and as your Christian responsibility requires, we encourage you to participate in the General Assembly on August 28, 2022, to establish the proper remunerations for the next parish priest. We assure you of our paternal prayers and care, as we have for over 42 years as your Hierarch We are confident that the Holy Trinity Parish in Los Angeles will move into the future with hope, building on the foundation of the past with the same dedication and love for God and the Holy Orthodox Faith. With hierarchal blessings and all good wishes, +Nathaniel, Archbishop".

In response to the above-mentioned ROEA's Letter of July 27, 2022 - The Parish Council acknowledges the receipt of the letter and takes note of the Episcopate's imposed requirements, namely to start the procedures of convening a meeting of the Parish Council, to discuss and

establish the salary and benefits package for the new parish priest, and set the time and place of the special general assembly meeting, already convoked by ROEA, without the parish consultation, for Sunday 28th August 2022, when and where the salary and benefits package for the new parish priest be approved by the Assembly.

After heated discussions, the participants at the meeting, unanimously expressed their indignation that the Episcopate did not produce a document, as stipulated by the meeting of the Parish Council resolution of Sunday, July 24, 2022, which was previously sent for review to our Church's Attorney.

The Parish Council feels very insulted by the way in which the Episcopate treated us like "kids" in the last 15 months, just "being told what to do", without consultation, in regards to the parish's interests, including finances and administration, i.e.; ROEA not considering that we are a non-profit corporation, registered in the State of California, and functioning according to the Civil Laws of the State of California. For example, we are being required by ROEA on short notice to hold a meeting to discuss the remuneration and financial matters relating to hiring a new priest, but no thought is given to our own financial situation and hardship brought upon us by ROEA, enforcing us to delist and remove the condominium from sale, even though our lawyers insist that it our right to do so, because the property in question is 'a gifted property' not a church property per say.

With all due respect for ROEA and its By-Laws, but the interpretation given by the Episcopate regarding the relationship between the ROEA and the Parish is similar to the 'relationship between parents and their kids', and that 'the kids cannot tell the parents what to do', is not at all appreciated by our parishioners, especially in this day and age. This is why most of the parishes lose membership, especially the young generation, and as such, lose revenue.

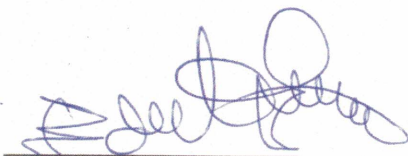
Because of the way the ROEA acted towards our parish, in the last 15 months, most of our church active parishioners are appalled, spiritually troubled, and have lost confidence and trust in the Episcopate, and therefore they are not willing to bow down to the Episcopate's abusive requirements, before the ROEA is willing to issue the previously-agreed upon document required by our parish, stating clearly that 1.) The investigation into the Sunland property matter that was formally started in May of '21, and was continued with the June '21 request letter, has now been concluded, that 2.) The matter is now considered closed going forward, and that 3.) The Episcopate Council does NOT intend to take any legal actions against the HTROC parish or its' representatives, as was published in the newsletter of last summer' Solia.

The date of 28th of August 2022, set randomly by the Episcopate, without any consultation with the parish, as the date of the Parish Special Assembly, cannot stand. It has to be negotiated by both parties, and only after the parish has received the above-stated document.

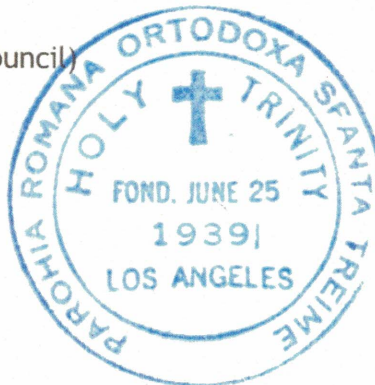
This resolution is adopted by acclamation by all the members of the Parish Council.

Then, and only then, after the HTROC will receive such a document from ROEA, the parish is willing to proceed, in an orderly manner, to deal with the issues, stated in the ROEA's letter of 15th July 2022.

Respectfully,
(For and on behalf of the Parish Council)



Edy Rastian, President



Claudia Dana Pugna, Secretary