

HOLY TRINITY

ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Fr. Constantin Alecse, Parish Priest

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Sunday 14th August 2022

Responding to the request of the ROEA Chancery (letter of July 27, 2022) Mr. Edvart Rastian, president, and Claudia Pugna, secretary, called to order a Parish Council Meeting.

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

A number of 14 members of the council answered "present" to the roll call. The agenda, with 9 points, was delivered to all members of the parish council, for discussions and approval. The motion to approve the agenda, made by Elena Calmus, seconded by Mrs. Getta Jercan, was unanimously approved as presented.

1). After The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of July 24, 2022 were distributed to all members, participating in the meeting, the said minutes were discussed and approved. Mrs. Mary Comboianu made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Antoaneta Rastian, to accept the minutes in the format presented. The minutes were voted unanimously.

2). Following the Parish General Assembly (01-30/2022) decisions and instructions, regarding the **750K dollars the church has in savings, to be deposited in 3 separate US banks**, in denominations of \$ 250,000 - maximum amount in one bank account, insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)", the Parish Council took action. Edvart Rastian made the motion to "start afresh", and open 3 new accounts in different banks, namely: Wells Fargo, Union Bank and Comerica, all Glendale branches, closest to the Church. Reggie C. Dissanayake seconded the motion. After some discussions and clarifications, all members present at the meeting voted unanimously to have this bank transaction completed before September 15, 2022.

3). Fr. Constantin Alecse was retired by ROEA effective 15th September 2022.

Fr Constantin Alecse, parish priest of the HTROC for 40 years was retired by Archbishop +Nathaniel, from all duties of parish priest of the HTROC, effective 15th September 2022, as per the ROEA's letter of retirement dated June 30, 2022 (copy attached). Clarifications regarding His Eminence's letter of retirement were discussed with the following points made: Father Constantin Alecse was indeed retired by His Hierarch, without Fr Constantin's express consent, starting on September 15, 2022. The letter/document was ambiguous in content to leave the impression that the retirement was made upon request, and that the ROEA Hierarch only approved it, and gives his parental blessings. Father Constantin wanted it noted for the record that had not sent any request for retirement, he was retired by ROEA effective 15th September 2022, and he accepted the Hierarch's decision of imposed retirement, without notice and consent.

4. Report on the telephone conversation between Edvart Rastian and Bishop Andrei (08-5-2022).

Since July 2, 2022, when Bishop Andrei delivered Fr Constantin Alecse a letter of retirement, dated June 30, 2022, ROEA is communicating only with the Council President, and the the church parishioners at large. Thus, ROEA sent the president, and the parishioners of HTROC the following official letters, dated as following:

-June 30, 2022 - The Archbishop explained the community that Fr. Constantin Alecse was granted retirement, effective September 15, 2022;

-July 15, 2022 - The Archbishop urges the community to have a General Assembly on August 21, 2022 to set the salary and benefits package for the new priest;

-July 27, 2022 - The Archbishop calls upon the parish council to convoke a General Assembly on Sunday, 28 August, to be presided by Fr. Remus Grama, the Archbishop's representative.

- On August 5, 2022 Bishop +Andrei had a 25 minutes phone conversation with Edy Rastian, who forcefully tried to intimidate the parish council president by not allowing him to convey the will of the parish council, but rather unconditionally to metaphorically bow down in front of the Hierarchs, stating that the relationship between the ROEA and the Parish is similar to the 'relationship between parents and their kids', and 'the kids cannot tell the parents what to do' and as such the president should call a parish council meeting ASAP, and follow the Archbishop Letter's instructions (July 27, 2022 letter).

- The president and the Secretary then called this Sunday's (08-14/2022) meeting, having the agenda sent one week in advance to all the council members.

5. Appreciation Letter to Fr Constantin Alecse, from the HTROC for his 40 years of Service to our church.

With much indignation the parish council members learnt officially from Father Constantin Alecse that INDEED he was retired by His Hierarchy, without his express consent, starting on September 15, 2022, although the retirement letter leaves the impression that the retirement was made upon request, and that the ROEA Hierarchy only approved it, and gives his parental blessings.

Father also explained, at this meeting, as he did in Church, at the end of all Sundays' Services, that he respects the Archbishop's decision.

Father Constantin and dna preoteasa Elena Alecse love this Church, they have served for 40 years, therefore on July 28, 2022, Father and presbytera Elena Alecse paid their 2022 membership dues, thus to continue to be counted as parish "members in good standing" of HTROC, as Father's "ex-officio" status will expire on September 15, 2022 (date of his retirement).

Antoaneta Rastian made the motion, seconded by Victoria Rezmeritsa, that the parish council, on behalf of the whole parish should offer a "Letter of Appreciation for 40 Years Ministry and Inspiring Leadership at Holy Trinity Romanian Orthodox Church in Los Angeles. With heart-felt ovations, the vote was by acclamation. (see attached letter).

6. Election of a co-secretary, as the secretarial work loads-up.

Considering the secretarial work load for the Secretary, during the uncertainties caused by ROEA, deciding to retire our parish priest, at all costs, and also considering that after September 15, 2022 Fr. Constantin Alecse has more free time as a retiree, president Edvart Rastian made the motion, seconded by the secretary Claudia Pugna, to elect Fr. Constantin Alecse, a parish paid member since July 28/2022, to the office of secretary (II), effective September 15/2022. Fr. Constantin accepted. The vote was unanimous with everyone applauding.

7. Reactions to Letter from ROEA (07-27/2022)

On the Archbishop's Request to Convoke a Special Parish Assembly on 08-28/2022:

Considering the way in which Archbishop +Nathaniel dictates heavy-handedly to the council, without any consultation and considerations, when and how to call a General Assembly on Sunday 08-28/2022 to vote the salary and the benefits package for the new priest, who will replace Fr. Constantin, when he retires;and also,

Considering that the discussions became very heated, and the anger against the way the ROEA Chancery treated our church leadership, and especially our pastor in the last 15 month, several things were discussed and resolved:

Chirata Stavrositu made the motion, seconded by Daniela Saffari, that the parish should NOT accept the ROEA's date of 08-28/2022, in spite the fact that Archbishop +Nathaniel already sent the stated letter to ALL parishioners (thus creating more resentment and spiritual anxiety). It was decided that it would be best that such meeting should take place only after the matters and grievances are resolved between the ROEA and our church. The vote was unanimous. There will be no General Assembly meeting on 08-28/2022, or at all, until at least;

The Episcopate would produce a document, as stipulated by the meeting of the Parish Council resolution of Sunday, July 24, 2022, regarding the closing of the „investigation into the Sunland property case” and the stipulation that ROEA will never reopen the case, or intend to take any legal actions against the HTROC parish or its' representatives, as was published in the newsletter of last summer' Summer issue Solia/2021.

Mrs. Getta Jercan made the motion that a Parish Council Resolution be sent to ROEA, underlining these gravancies our church has against ROEA, and only then, after the HTROC will receive such a document from ROEA, upon our church Attorney's advice will the council decide the next steps the parish will take. The motion was seconded by Mary Comboianu. The vote was unanimous (resolution attached).

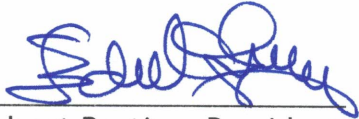
8. The “Salary and benefit package” for the new priest.

On the agenda discussion point the “Salary and benefit package” for the new priest, considering all the above facts and events, and many other considerations, internal and external, after long and prayerful discussions, having lost the good faith and the good will of the community in ROEA and its Hierarchs, the unanimous will of the Parish Council, on behalf of HTROC believes that the right path the parish should take in the future is NOT to hire a new priest recommended by ROEA, but to instead disassociate HTROC from the ROEA.

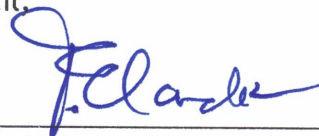
Edie Rastian made the motion, seconded by Reggie Christian Dissanayake, to disassociate Holy Trinity Romanian Orthodox Church from the ROEA- Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America, and join later-on another Canonical Orthodox Non-profit Entity, as per the Attorneys' advice. (see attached “Parish Council Resolution”)

9. Proposal and discussions - Closing the meeting - Exhausting all the topics of the meeting, Victoria Rezmeritsa made the motion to close the meeting, seconded by Claudia Pugna. Unanimous vote. The meeting ended at around 3:15 pm with the singing of the hymn "Cuvine-se cu Adevarat!"

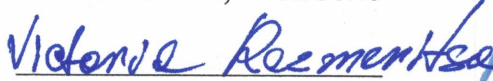
Respectfully,
For and on behalf of the Board of Directors/Parish Council,



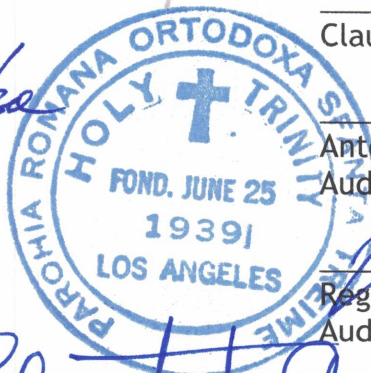
Edvart Rastian, President



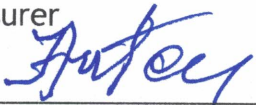
Claudia Dana Pugna, Secretary



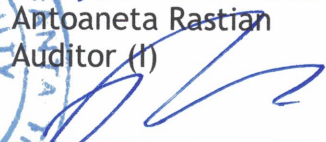
Victoria Razmeritsa
Treasurer



Antoaneta Rastian
Auditor (I)



Ion Anton, Vicepresident &
Congress Delegate



Reggie Christian Dissanayake
Auditor (II)



Fr. Constantin Alecse, Pastor