

HOLY TRINITY ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Fr. Constantin Alecse, Pastor

Holy Trinity Romanian American Orthodox Church The Parish Council Minutes - Sunday, 25 September 2022

Considering the nature and the importance of the fluid events which ROEA initiated in our parish, during the summer and especially since mid-September 2022, the parish council president and the secretary, convoked a parish council meeting for Sunday, 25th of September 2022, starting at 1:00 pm, at the end of the Holy Sunday Liturgy.

The meeting was held in church, and started with the invocation prayer offered by Father Constantin Alecse. The president explained to the participants that certain actions taken in the last few months by the Episcopate without consulting the parish council are the true reasons why the council held parish council meetings so often, absolutely necessary to keep the church running as normally as possible.

The secretary made the roll call. Meeting the quorum, with a number of 18 council members present, the president declared the meeting legally and constitutionally in session (list attached).

The 11 points working agenda was distributed to all meeting participants. Mrs. Antoaneta Rastian mentioned 2 typo errors on the agenda: in point #2, "a" and "b", the year should read "2022" in place of "2028". Mrs. Getta Jercan made the motion to accept the agenda as corrected. Mrs. Filofteea Turlacu seconded. The agenda was unanimously accepted in the corrected form.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Sunday 14th August 2022 were distributed to all members participating in the meeting. Mrs. Mary Comboianu made the motion, seconded by Mr. Anatol Rezmeritsa, to accept the minutes as presented. Being no corrections, comments or other discussions, the minutes were voted unanimously.

Before proceeding with each point of the AGENDA, the president asked the participants if they want to vote separately on each point of the agenda, or have one vote of approval on all the points/reports (# 1 through #10), with a separate votes on the last item # 11 - Miscellaneous - Proposals and discussions. Mrs. Chirata Stavrositu made a motion to have one vote of approval on all the points/reports (# 1 through #10), at the end of the last report (#10). Mr. Vasile Luca seconded. Everyone voted in favor. None against; No abstentions.

Reports on the actions the Board of Directors/Parish Council took since 08-14/2022

The members of the council asked the Executive Board to give detailed reports regarding the recent actions; the Board of Directors/Parish Council took, for and on behalf of our parish community, under the present parish circumstances:

1. Visit of Fr. Ioan Cozma, from NYC to the Holy Trinity Church.

Fr Constantin Alecse reported to the council that, in accordance with the ROEA's plans to appoint Fr. Ioan Cozma of NYC to replace him as the parish priest of the HTROC, Fr Cozma, and his presbyteria visited our church on Wednesday, 17 August 2022. He met with Fr. Constantin who gave him a tour of the church

facilities. Fr Constantin also explained to Fr Cozma the on-going misunderstandings between the HTROC and ROEA, for more than a year, which may delay the process of appointment of a new priest.

2. **The Visit of Fr. Remus Grama on the weekend of Sunday 28 August 2022.**

Through the letter of 07-27/2022, sent to ALL Parishioners of our Church, ROEA convoked the Parish General Assembly for Sunday, 28th Aug. 2022, to be chaired by Fr. Remus Grama, to vote on the salary package for a new priest.

In response to ROEA's convocation letter, the parish council held a meeting on Sunday 14th Aug. 2022, protesting the ROEA's proposal. Among other things, during the abovementioned meeting, the council issued a resolution, adopted by acclamation by all members, stating that unless ROEA issues a document (in 3 points) stating that "The Sunland Property case" is closed, and will never be reopened again, the parish is not going to take any actions suggested by ROEA.

The ROEA's representative, Fr. Remus Grama arrived in Los Angeles on the weekend of the 28th of August. The evening before the meeting, Fr. Grama had dinner with Fr. Alecse, who informed Fr. Grama that he doubted the parish would accept a meeting that did not address their concerns. Fr. Grama stepped out to consult with the Archbishop and presumably received instructions. The next day, Sunday, after they served together, Fr. Alecse introduced Fr. Grama to the faithful, and then excused himself to perform a baptismal service that was previously scheduled. Fr. Grama proceeded to attempt to conduct the meeting with the narrow scope of the Archbishop's agenda, but that was not acceptable to the attendees from the Holy Trinity, who felt that their issues were being purposefully ignored. In the end, the meeting did not take place at all.

3. **The Council Resolution of 08-14/2022, answered by ROEA on 09-13/2022.**

Mr. Edvart Rastian, parish council president, reported that on September 13, 2022 the HTROC received a letter from ROEA, stating among other things the following: "... the Episcopate Council, which met on September 9, 2022 in Cleveland, Ohio, determined the following: 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 Solia newsletter ".

4. **ROEA asks the parish council to convoke a Parish General Assembly.** Mr. Edvart Rastian, parish council president, reported that in same letter of 09-13/2022, ROEA asks the parish council to set a date at earliest time possible for a Parish General Assembly to determine the remuneration of the next parish priest...

5. **Fr Constantin Alecse, is blessed by ROEA's Hierarch to serve "pro temp", beyond 15th of Sept. 2022.**

Fr. Constantin Alecse explained to the participants that, having no new priest appointed at the HTROC, after the his forced retirement by ROEA, Archbishop +Nathaniel, in the letter addressed to Fr. Constantin (dated 15th Sept. 2022), states the following: "we bless you to continue to serve as pro-temp at the altar of Holy Trinity Parish..." until the process of assigning the next parish priest is completed according to the By-Laws.

6. **Resolution issued by the parish council on 08-14/2022, to disassociate from the Episcopate**

Mr. Edvart Rastian, parish council president, reported that considering all the grievances, HTROC accumulated during many years of relationship with ROEA, the HTROC Board of Directors/Parish Council, legally elected by the Parish Annual Assembly of 01-30-2022, approved by the ROEA, in the presence of Vicar-Bishop +Andrei, introduced a motion, at the 14th of August 2022 meeting, to disassociate the HTROC from the Episcopate.

7. **Two California Law Firms were hired by HTROC.**

Mr. Reggie Dissanayake, designated by the parish council president and the Executive Board to be the liaison between the HTROC and the Lawyers' Firms, reported that the hiring of the Law Firms of "Schofield & Grossman, APC - Attorney at Law", and "Wolf, Rifkin, Shapiro, Schulman & Rabkin LLP" (www.wrslawyers.com) is being completed, and NOW they work as a team very well.

Also he reported that the Contract/Agreement HTROC – Law Firm "Roger J. Diamond" was closed, and the transfer of \$100K from Diamond to Grossman Client Trust Account was completed on 09-05-2022.

The Retainer and Contract/Agreement between HTROC and the Law Firm "Wolf, Rifkin, Shapiro, Schulman & Rabkin LLP" was signed and a Deposit of \$25K, approved by the president is sent in "WRSS&R Client Trust Account" (09-26/2022).

8. **The Law Firms go full speed with the legal process of disassociation of HTROC from the Episcopate.**
Mr. Reggie Dissanayake reported that:
* The Statement of Information regarding the election of the new officers was made with CA Secretary of State was changed on 09-23/2022;
* The Church's Articles of Incorporation are Amended and Restated, approved by the Board of Directors/parish council at Sunday, 25th of September 2022 meeting, will be recorded with the California Secretary of State shortly, and bears the amended name as "Holy Trinity Romanian American Orthodox Church";
* The Church will have its own By-Laws, attorney Anthony Grossman is working on, and will be recorded after the recordation of the Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation;
* The "Directors Resolution to Disassociate HTROC from ROEA" approved by the Board of Directors/parish council at Sunday, 25th of September 2022 meeting are the basis of the Disassociation of HTROC from the Episcopate;
* Per the attorney's advice, effective immediately, any and all communications with ROEA, ROEA's Leadership and/or ROEA's Chancery personnel, is done ONLY the Legal Counsels Chanel.
9. **Fr Constantin Alecse is offered an "Employment Contract" by HTROC.**
Acting upon the decision of The Board of Directors/Parish Council meeting of 09-25/2022, the Council voted to offer Fr Constantin Alecse an Employment Contract, with the same salary and benefits package he had during 2021, for as long as he wishes/undetermined period of time, effective: 09-15/2022.
Father accepted the offer, and the attorneys will draw the Employment Contract; therefore THE CHURCH will continue to have uninterrupted SERVICES at all times.
10. **The HTROC and Fr Constantin Alecse (if so wishes) to join ROMA.**
Due to the fact that ROEA did not act in good faith in its relationship with HTROC, in the last few years, and especially the last 18months (May 2021-September 2022) regarding our parish's interests, including finances and administration;
Due to an attitude of harassment, abuse of power, disrespect, lying, intimidation, manipulation, summarized by our attorney Roger Diamond as ROEA's abusive & aggressive attitude;
Due to the fact that ROEA's Chancery used a undue pressure to force our parish priest, Fr Constantin Alecse (who served our church for 40 years) into un-solicited retirement, in order to appoint a new priest, willing to help the Episcopate get the \$2mm from the parish, as they did with other parishes (i.e. Romanian Church in Anaheim, California, The Center for Christian Orthodox Center, in Detroit, Michigan, The Ascension Monastery, in Clinton, Michigan, and some other churches of the Episcopate).
Due to the fact that ROEA employed, in the last few years, an abusive and aggressive attitude towards our parish priest, the parish representatives and our church parishioners, totally disregarding the fact that our Church is a financially self-supporting non-profit corporation, registered in the State of California, functioning according to the Civil Laws of the State of California for more than 80 years, and never receiving any consideration or other financial incentives (money) from ROEA;
Due to the fact that ROEA, and in its leadership, lacks the understanding of the financial realities of our parish, ALL of our active church members are appalled, spiritually troubled by the ROEA leadership, having totally lost the confidence and trust in the Episcopate, and therefore they decided no longer accept their meddling in our parish's internal affairs;
Therefore, having lost the good faith and the good will of the community, the Parish Council voted unanimously to disassociate HTROC from the ROEA - Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America, and join the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of the United States of America, which is part of ROMA - Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas.

All reports were accepted. After all the reports were presented, as it was agreed at the beginning, the president asked for a motion to approve the reports (points #1 through #10).
Mrs Getta Jercan made the motion to accept all the reports (points #1 through #10) as presented.

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Antoaneta Rastian. The floor was opened for discussions. A few questions were asked and some clarifications were made on certain reports. The motion of accepting all the reports (points #1 through #10) was voted on, and the vote was unanimous.

11. Miscellaneous - Proposals and discussions.

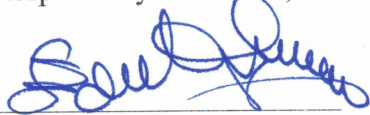
The following proposals were made:

- * To hire a reputable CPA Firm to help the church with bookkeeping, accounting and auditing.
- * To offer Fr. Petru Vamvulescu a Thank-you card (with a gift of \$2K) for serving at the HTROC throughout many years
- * To purchase a color printer for the parish office.

Mr. Ion Anton made the motion to accept all the above three (3) proposals, seconded by the president Edy Rastian and Claudia Pugna. The vote was unanimous.

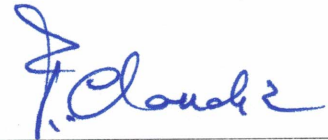
All the items on the agenda being discussed and voted upon, the president ask for a motion to close the meeting. Mr. Vasile Luca made the motion to close, seconded by Mrs. Victoria Rezmeritza and Daniela Saffari. Everyone voted in favor, and the meeting ended at around 2:45 pm, with the hymn: "Cuvine-se cu Adevarat!"

Respectfully submitted,



Edy Rastian, President

Signed 10-2-, 2022



Claudia Dana Pugna, Secretary

Signed 10-2-, 2022