



HOLY TRINITY

ROMANIAN AMERICAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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The Minutes of the Special Parish Assembly of Sunday 30 October 2022

SESSION (II) - Ratification of the Minutes and Decisions the Board of Directors/Parish Council taken at the following Meetings: July 24, 2022, August 14, 2022, September 25, 2022, October 2, 2022

After 5 minutes break, away from Session I, the Chair called in **Session II** the Special Parish Assembly of Sunday 30 October 2022, at around 2:20 pm.

As a point of order, the Chair asked the assembly if there is unanimous consent to entertain a motion, by acclamation, that all of the pre-session administrative coordinates, stated in the Session I of this Special Parish Assembly of Sunday 30 October 2022, be applied to Session II. However a motion and a second are needed. Cristian Calugarita made the motion, seconded by Sabina Popescu Szekely that the administrative preamble from Session I be applied, by default to Session II, as follows:

Preamble: "The Board of Directors/Parish Council of the Holy Trinity Romanian Orthodox Church (hereinafter called "The Church"), convoked the all "members in good standing", to attend the Special Parish Assembly on Sunday 30 October 2022, held in church, 3315 Verdugo Rd., Los Angeles, California 90065, at 1:00 pm, at the end of the Sunday's Church Service.

Invocation Prayer, the Roll Call and the Validation of Voting Members

At 1:00 pm sharp, president Edvart Rastian invited everyone in church to stand up for the invocation prayer, led by Fr. Constantin Alecse.

Considering that this event is a Special Parish Assembly, the president invited the members to write down in their own writing their names, and affix their signatures, on the roster-list that the secretary was personally circulating from parishioner to parishioner.

The president also asked Fr. Alecse to explain clearly who is a "members in good standing" of the Church, and the conditions they have to fulfill in order to vote in this assembly.

The Chair presented the presidium: Edvart Rastian, President, Claudia Pugna, Secretary, Reggie Dissanayake, General Consel and Controller, Antoaneta Rastian, Controller, Victoria Razmeritsa, treasurer (who had chosen to sit on the bench), Filofteea Turlacu, Teller, Gabriel Szekely, Teller and Fr Constantin Alecse, parish priest, who was the parish priest for the Church for 40 years. Mariana Cadia made the motion to accept the presidium. Elena Calmus Seconded. All participants were in favour.

The Validation Committee (president, secretary, treasurer, trustee/epitrop & the parish controllers), appointed at the last meeting of the Board of Directors/Parish Council meeting of Sunday, October 2, 2022, validated and certified the membership-at-large: 182 members; and the paid members, "members in good standing": 57 members (paid 01-01-2022 through 10-30-2022).

During the process of roll-calling and validation of votes, another 5 members, who paid their dues to the treasurer as they entered the church, were acknowledged by the Chair, thus they were included on the roster, right before the working session started. Claudia Pugna the Assembly's secretary and the Secretary of the Validation Committee officially acknowledged to the Chair that total number of voting members, present at the meeting is: 62. Thus, with 62 voting members, the Chair declared the meeting officially opened.

Before the approval of the Agenda, the Chair asked the Assembly's approval to record this meeting for the church's archives. No other recordings are allowed or approved. Chirata Stavrositu made the motion to allow only the Church (by Reggie Dissanayake) to record the meeting. Seconded by Maria Salajan. The vote was unanimous. No one was against or abstained..

At this point, the printed 2 pages Agenda (separate one for Session I; and separate one for Session II), was distributed to all participants. Vasile Luca made the motion to accept the Agenda, for both Sessions, as presented. Seconded by Adrian Thomas. Being no discussions regarding the Agenda, the votes showed unanimous consent”.

As stated above, Cristian Calugarita made the motion, seconded by Sabina Popescu and Gabriel Szekeley to apply by default the above stated preamble from Session I to Session II. No discussions were held on preamble motion; the Chair entertained a vote, which was unanimous.

There were Nine (9) Topics on the Agenda of the Special Assembly (Session II):

01. Approval of the Board of Directors/Parish Council decision to hire two (2) Attorney Firms

The Chair invited the General Counsel, Reggie Dissanayake, to make a presentation on this Topic. Reggie made a 10-minute comprehensive presentation, stating the reasons for the Board of Directors/Parish Council to take the decision of hiring two (2) Attorneys, specialized in Constitutional Law in the event of litigations by ROEA. a). The Schofield & Grossman, APC, the Attorney for the Fanous Estate probate, was hired by the church on 7th August 2022, and b). Wolf, Rifkin, Shapiro, Schulman & Rabkin LLP, was hired on 26th of September 2022. This Firm was hired to provide all legal services required in connection with the Church's contemplated dissociation from, and potential dispute with, The Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America and such other matters upon which the Church and Attorneys may mutually agreed if such litigation were to be commenced in connection with this Matter. At the end of his presentation, Mr. Dissanayake asked the participants if there are any questions and/or comments.

There were none, except praises to Reggie, from Antoaneta Rastian, and the Chair, for the job well done so far, and for his time he wholeheartedly gave to our church in his capacity of General Counsel. Cristian Calugarita made the motion to ratify the action of the Board of Directors/Parish Council to hire the 2 Attorney Firms. The second came from Antoaneta Rastian. Motion passed with unanimous vote. Nobody was against. No one abstained.

02. Election of the Board of Directors/Parish Council, for a term of 2 years (2023-2024)

Considering that HTRAOC is joining the ROMA, adopting it's Status, the Nominating Committee, appointed by the Board of Directors/Parish Council, at its meeting of 2nd of October 2022, presented the Assembly the Slate of candidates to serve the Church for a term of 2 years (2023-2024). The Chair explained the procedure of voting the Slate. President Edvart Rastian invited Claudia Pugna, the Assembly's secretary, to read the Slate. The Secretary made the motion that the Assembly accepts the Slate. Motion was seconded by Gina Cataloiu. Motion passed with unanimous vote. Nobody was against. No one abstained. ALL the proposed candidates were present at the meeting, and signed their names on the Slate.

03. Vote on the Board of Directors/Parish Council's decision to hire Fr. Constantin Alecse

The President Edvart Rastian, on behalf of the Board of Directors/Parish Council, made the motion to employ Fr. Constantin Alecse as the parish priest of the Holy Trinity Romanian American Orthodox Church, with the same salary and benefits he enjoyed in that same position before 15th September, 2022 when he was forcefully retired by ROEA. The 10 pages Employment Contract, signed by the President and the Secretary, was drawn by the Church's attorneys. The motion was seconded by Andreea Dragoi, Viorica Hrimiuc și Mariana Cadia. Motion passed with unanimous votes. Nobody was against. No one abstained.

04. Approve the Board of Directors/Parish Council's decision to authorize the Attorneys Team to send the Letter of Disassociation from the Episcopate.

The Attorneys Team approved the content of Letter of Disassociation of HTRAOC from ROEA, effective 25 October 2022, and delegated Anthony Grossman to send to the ROEA's Chancery. Such action was taken by the Board of Directors/Parish Council at its 25th September 2022 Meeting. The printed Attorney's Letter was distributed to all the assembly members. There were no questions or discussions. Filofteea Turlacu made the motion to ratify the action of the Board of Directors/Parish Council to send the Letter in subject to ROEA on 25th October 2022. Elena Calmus seconded the motion.

There were no questions or comments. Motion passed with unanimous votes. Nobody was against. No one abstained.

5. Ratify the Board of Directors/Parish Council's petition to be accepted by ROMA.

The Chair presented the assembly the main reasons why the Board of Directors/Parish Council took into account when, at the September 25, 2022 voted unanimously to disassociate the HTRAOC from ROEA-The Episcopate, and petitioned ROMA-Romanian Orthodox Metropolia for the Americas, to be accepted under its jurisdiction, under Metropolitan +Nicolae's Omophorion.

At the request of the Chair, the secretary presented the assembly of summary of the main reasons

ROEA's attitude of harassment, abuse of power, disrespect, lying, intimidation, manipulation, blackmailing, intimidation, fabricated cases for investigations, threat of initiation of frivolous lawsuits, etc.

Use of undue pressure to force our parish priest into un-solicited retirement in order to appoint a new priest, willing to help the Episcopate get our church's \$2nm estate, as they did with other parishes i.e. Romanian Church in Anaheim. California. The Center for Christian Orthodox center, in Detroit, Michigan (which still owes HTRAOC the amount of \$50K loan in 1999 never paid back to our church) The Ascension Monastery, Clinton MI and many other churches of the Episcopate;

Aggressive attitude towards our parish priest the parish representatives and parishioners (being considered by Bishop Andrei as "Children who have to submit unconditionally to their parents, ROEA", total disregards for the fact that HTRAOC 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:

Because the Episcopate and in its leadership, lacks the understanding of the financial realities of our parish (i.e. refusal to approve the petition of HTRAOC to sell its Beverly Hills condominium unlawfully soliciting our church to send to ROEA an amount of over \$ 25K as legal expenses" for a case never adjudicated, etc). and many other reasons which will be recounted in the future in our church's publication "Christian Life" Magazine.

During last two years, ALL the 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 HTRAOC 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.

The Chair thanked the secretary for her comprehensive presentation of reasoning of disassociation of HTRAOC from the Episcopate, and entertained a motion to validate the Board of Directors/Parish Council decision for disassociation.

Vasile Luca made the motion that the assembly ratify the decision of the Board of Directors/Parish Council to disassociation HTRAOC from the Episcopate and join the ROMA-Romanian Orthodox Metropolia for the Americas under the Omofohon of His Eminence Metropolitan +Nicolae. There were 2 seconds from Mary. Comboianu and Victoria Rezmeritsa.

The floor was opened for discussions. Mr. Adrian Thomas raised the question if anybody read the Statutes of ROMA? If so, what assurances do we have that ROMA does not do to our Church what ROEA did in the last few years?. The Chair explained that indeed the members of our Church Board of Directors Executive Committee works closely with our attorneys to draw the Church's Bylaws in concordance with ROMA's Statutes. At the end of the discussions, the Chair asked for the vote on the motion. Motion passed with unanimous votes. Nobody was against. No one abstained.

6. The Church's Bylaws - work in progress

The Chair entertained a motion to approve the action of the Board of Directors/Parish Council, to draft its own Church Bylaws, Secretary Claudia Pugna made such a motion, seconded by Getta Jercan.

The Chair then explained the assembly that the Board of Directors/Parish Council, appointed a Bylaws committee to work with the attorneys to draft the Church's Bylaws.

He asked for a motion to approve the action of the Board of Directors/Parish Council to have its own Bylaws, according to the recommendation of the church's attorneys, who recorded with the California Secretary of States the new Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation.

Cristian Calugarita asked the presidium if there is a Church Bylaws document, or draft, to be presented to the parish assembly, as stated on the Agenda and Convocation letter of 15th October 2022. The Chair apologized to the assembly for having on the Assembly's Agenda and Convocation letter of 15th October 2022, this topic listed as "Approval of the Bylaws". It was a misstatement. The intent was to let the assembly know that a Church Committee is working closely with the attorneys to draft the Church's Bylaws, in accordance with the Statutes of ROMA's - Romanian Orthodox Metropolia. When the appointed committee and the attorneys will have the draft finalized, it will be presented to the Board of Directors/Parish Council for review, and brought on to a future Parish Assembly for approval.

Cristian Calugarita, who is the president of the "Viitorul Roman" Society, having experience in drafting two (2) Bylaws for the Society, expressed his desire to be consulted if necessary for the finalization of the Church's Bylaws. The Chair gratefully accepted Mr. Calugarita's offer. Having no other discussions on the topic, the Chair asked for a vote. Motion passed with unanimous votes. Nobody was against. No one abstained.

08. Proposals and Discussions

Before opening the floor for "proposals and discussions", the president emphasized that this topic is at the heart of democracy, when people exercise their right to express any opinions without censorship or restraint. This right was taken from HTRAOC by ROEA, which did not approve the Agenda of the January 30th 2022 Parish Annual Assembly until this line (point on the agenda) was eliminated. And even after it was eliminated, and the Agenda approved, the ROEA leadership did not allow the parish to handle that meeting freely but, in an attempt to catch us unawares, sent the Vicar-Bishop unannounced at the very last minute, ostensibly as an "observer" to participate at the stated meeting, where he made numerous recordings and copious notes (presumably to use against HTRAOC later, such as the sale of the Beverly Hills condo). Thus, our parishioners freedom of speech, our constitutional legal right to express freely was infringed, therefore the Board of Directors/Parish Council, decided not to have the ROEA's blessings and approval for this parish special assembly.

Besides that, as the HTRAOC leadership voted to disassociate from the ROEA - The Episcopate, there was no need for ROEA's blessings and approval for this parish special assembly.

To cut any and ALL ties between HTRAOC and the Episcopate, including the spiritual-canonical ones, Board of Directors/Parish Council recommended to the Assembly to return the Holy Antimensos, signed by ROEA's Hierarch in 2014, to its lawful owner, Archbishop Nathaniel.

The Secretary announced the assembly that **over 200 parishioners signed the Lists of Disassociation** from the ROEA - The Episcopate.

Being no other subjects to discuss, the President entertained a motion to approve the above stated "proposals and discussions". Mrs. Chirața Stavrositu made the motion to approve "in block" ALL the items discussed in this topic "proposals and discussions". Viorica Hrimiuc Marynela Nituțea seconded. Motion passed with unanimous votes. Nobody was against. No one abstained.

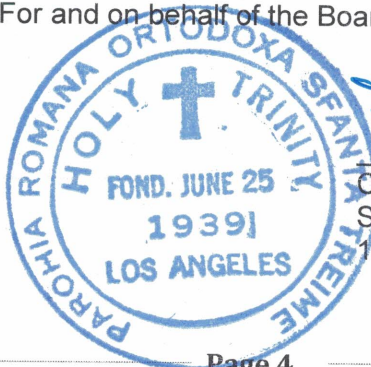
09. Closing of the Meeting of the Special Session (II).

Cristian Calugarita made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Filofteea Turlacu and Mariana Cadia. The President declared the meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm with the Church Hymn "Cuvine-se cu adevărat!" and the final blessings.

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



Edward Rastian
President
1st November 2022



Claudia Pugna
Secretary
1st November 2022