



METROPOLIS OF  
SAN FRANCISCO

## **CLERGY-LAITY ASSEMBLY MINUTES**

***February 25 – 26, 2013***

**Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center – Dunlap, CA**

### **CALL TO ORDER AND DESIGNATION OF PRESIDING OFFICER**

The 2013 Clergy-Laity Assembly was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos who led the delegates in an Opening Prayer Service.

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos then nominated Fanis Economidis as the Presiding Officer of the Assembly. This nomination was approved by acclamation of the Assembly.

### **KEYNOTE ADDRESS – HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS**

Metropolitan Gerasimos presented his Keynote Address, focusing on the recent efforts of the Metropolis to develop a comprehensive Strategic Plan to chart the course for our future work. In relating this to the theme of the Assembly, ***“I know that whatever God does endures forever”*** (Ecclesiastes 3:14), the Strategic Plan was developed with this in mind, developing this plan around our faith and building upon God’s calling to each of us. It is with Him and through Him that this Strategic Plan will “endure forever” and it will take everyone working together for this common cause to make this a reality. Metropolitan Gerasimos outlined three reasons which substantiate the need for a Strategic Plan:

1. Proper identification and use of our resources – time, talent and treasure; setting priorities in our work and using the plan as our guide to accomplish these.
2. Identification of goals and desired results – while understanding that salvation is truly the work of the Church, we must have a plan that addresses the diverse needs of our people and how we will get there.
3. Development of new ways and new methods to reach our people – recognizing that in these times there are different resources and situations which warrant special attention. The plan will help us identify those and then respond accordingly, with efficiency and innovation.

His Eminence also welcomed two special guests to the Assembly: Father Maximos of Simonopetra, a distinguished scholar and theologian who will be leading the Clergy Retreat immediately following the Assembly; and Mr. Bill Marianes, a dynamic and visionary steward from the Metropolis of Atlanta who has been leading our Strategic Planning efforts. Metropolitan Gerasimos also thanked Michael Pappas and the staff of Saint Nicholas Ranch for their wonderful hospitality and attentiveness to the needs of the Assembly.

Metropolitan Gerasimos also announced that during this Assembly we would be participating in an historic groundbreaking for the Alex and Faye Spanos Faith and Heritage Center which will be built at

the Ranch, and was part of the vision of His Eminence Metropolitan Anthony, of blessed memory. Mrs. Faye Spanos will be in attendance for this service.

Lastly, Metropolitan Gerasimos reminded everyone that our first Gala celebrating the ministries of our Metropolis and honoring the extraordinary leadership of Fanis Economidis will be held next weekend, March 2, at the Ritz Carlton in San Francisco. This event will raise funds for the development of an endowment fund for our Metropolis, and we are very grateful to the many people who have come forward to show their support through their generous sponsorships and volunteerism of time and talent. It is long overdue to honor Fanis and his over 30 years of devoted service to this Metropolis and His Eminence congratulated him on this well-deserved recognition.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN PRESENTATION**

Bill Marianes offered a very thorough presentation on the progress of the Metropolis Strategic Plan. He began with an overview of the Strategic Planning process that was used for the formation of this plan. He then reviewed the results of the SWOT Analysis conducted by the committee in which the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats facing the Metropolis were identified. As a result of this work, the Core Values of the Metropolis were identified as:

1. *Christ-centered*
2. *Active participation in sacramental life*
3. *Education*
4. *Integrity, transparency and accountability*
5. *Stewardship*
6. *Outreach and evangelism*
7. *Inclusiveness and engagement*
8. *Courage*
9. *Communications using all media*
10. *Minister to all generations and strengthen our families and relationships*
11. *Financial responsibility*

This led to the development of the “SWEEPing” Vision of the Metropolis:

**We will grow the Greek Orthodox Christian Church in the Western United States through Christ-centered:**

**Steewardship  
Worship  
Education  
Evangelism  
Philanthropic Outreach**

Lastly, the eleven (11) defined Task Forces were presented which will guide the Strategic Plan into full implementation. These Task Forces are focusing on the following areas:

1. *Education*
2. *Liturgical Life*
3. *Missions and Evangelism*
4. *Philanthropic Outreach*
5. *Stewardship*
6. *Youth*
7. *Specialized Ministries – Wellness*
8. *Communications*
9. *Finances*
10. *Metropolis Organization and Development*
11. *Parish Organization and Development*

Following dinner, the Assembly participated in a discussion regarding the plan, offering their feedback and support of the progress thus far, and their endorsement of this effort.

## **DAY TWO**

The Assembly reconvened on Tuesday, February 26 following Divine Liturgy. An opening prayer was offered at 10:45 a.m. by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos.

## **METROPOLIS COUNCIL REPORT**

Fanis Economidis provided a brief summary of the deliberations of the Metropolis Council which met immediately preceding the Assembly.

Fanis first expressed his gratitude to His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos for the trust he has placed in him to serve as the Vice-President, and also extended his thanks to the members of the Metropolis Council for their dedicated service throughout the year.

The Metropolis Council met beginning on Sunday evening through early yesterday afternoon. We continue to be diligent in our efforts to guide the efforts of the Metropolis, ensuring fiscal responsibility, leadership and vision for our work. The Council is comprised of 26 members – both elected and appointed, as well as three new ex-officio members who have joined us representing the next generation of leadership.

There was a vacancy on the Council and His Eminence appointed one of our new ex-officio members, Michael Syrengelas, to fill this position. In addition, the position of Treasurer needed to be filled. His Eminence nominated Michael Syrengelas, and the Council elected him to this position unanimously.

The Metropolis Strategic Planning Committee has been working very diligently on the development of this important plan which will shape and guide the work of our Metropolis for many years to come. Bill Marianes is a dynamic individual who is a blessing to our Archdiocese, and we are grateful to him for sharing of his time and talent for the betterment of our Metropolis. The Metropolis has also been blessed with a “godfather” in Mr. George Marcus, who has been covering all the expenses associated with the Strategic Planning meetings.

The National Ministries Allocation from the Archdiocese remains the primary source of income for the Metropolis. The Metropolis receives 25% of the total amount contributed by our parishes, provided that our parishes fulfill 100% of their obligation. This is an important obligation for each of our communities and one that should be taken with all seriousness and attentiveness.

We will have an Agiasmos and Groundbreaking Service later in the Assembly for the Alex and Faye Spanos Faith and Heritage Center. This new facility will be a tremendous asset to the Ranch, we look forward to welcoming representatives from the Spanos family and seeing this Center come to full realization.

The Metropolis Council spent considerable time reviewing the financial reports, and has been diligent about monitoring expenses for the Metropolis. Later on during our meeting, we will be presenting the 2013 budget for your review and approval. This budget has an expectation that our parishes will each reach 100% of their obligation to the Archdiocese, thus providing us with an allocation of \$679,000.

Saint Nicholas Ranch continues to be a cornerstone ministry of our Metropolis. It is here for everyone to enjoy, for our children to learn, and for spiritual renewal. The support of our parishes is vital to the ongoing operations of the Ranch, and the Metropolis Council is recommending that the Metropolis Ministries Assessment which is currently \$2,400 per parish, per year, be increased by \$500 annually, with this increase being designated for Saint Nicholas Ranch. This is part of the 2013 Proposed Metropolis Budget which will be reviewed and adopted today.

Fanis called to the attention of the Assembly that in your binders you have reports from the various ministries and committees of our Metropolis. He encouraged the delegates read this valuable information and share them with your communities as they contain many resources.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes as distributed was made by John Demetropoulos, seconded by John Fotopoulos.

### **METROPOLIS FINANCIAL REPORT**

Due to a scheduling conflict with the newly elected Treasurer Michael Syrengelas, Fanis Economidis presented the Metropolis Financial Report. He reviewed the 2012 Budget Report and noted that the Metropolis is doing an excellent job of managing its expenses. The total income for the Metropolis in 2012 was \$1,017,246 with expenses being \$977,525. The Balance Sheet reflects the \$112,485 which is presently owed to various Metropolis Restricted Fund accounts, as well as a \$92,204 loan due to the Metropolis Philoptochos. Our Restricted Fund Accounts total nearly \$1.5 million and include funds for the Hellenic Heritage Center, the Elios Cultural Fund, and the All Saints Foundation, among others.

In response to the recommendation from the Metropolis Council to increase the Metropolis Ministries Assessment for our parishes by \$500 per year to benefit Saint Nicholas Ranch, in lieu of the annual tray the Metropolis asks each parish to pass for this same purpose. A motion was made to approve this recommendation by Father Theodore Dorrance, seconded by Michael Koulakis. Motion carried unanimously.

It was suggested by Father Gary Kyriacou that the Metropolis consider a sliding scale for the Ministries Assessment based on the size of the parish.

A motion to approve the 2013 budget was made by Father Peter Salmas, seconded by Nick Pries. Motion carried unanimously.

### **GROUNDBREAKING**

The delegates convened outside for the Agiasmos and Groundbreaking Service for the Alex and Faye Spanos Faith and Heritage Center.

### **YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY PRESENTATION**

Paul Gikas, Metropolis Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, offered a presentation on his efforts to lead this important ministry of our Metropolis. This included information on the newly restructured leadership of Summer Camp at Saint Nicholas Ranch, the Greek Village Camp, the Oratorical Festival, and various other retreat and programs held regionally in the Metropolis. A new website for youth ministry has been launched ([www.gosfyouth.org](http://www.gosfyouth.org)) as well as a Facebook page to keep youth informed on the latest activities offered by the Metropolis.

### **HELLENIC COLLEGE HOLY CROSS 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PRESENTATION**

Father Luke Palumbis announced that Hellenic College Holy Cross is celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its founding. A video was shown highlighting the many accomplishments and tremendous history of the school. Our Metropolis will be coordinating an event in the coming months to benefit Hellenic College Holy Cross and honor this milestone celebration.

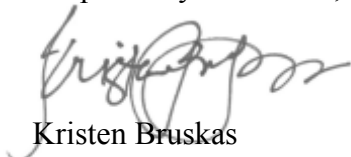
### **CLOSING REMARKS**

Prior to offering his closing remarks, Metropolitan Gerasimos introduced two new priests who are now serving in our Metropolis: Father Apostolos Hill who is now the proistamenos at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Phoenix, AZ; and Father Andreas MacLean who is the proistamenos at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Flagstaff, AZ.

Metropolitan Gerasimos thanked the delegates for their commitment to the Church, and for the vision, energy and enthusiasm they demonstrated during the enriching dialogue of the Assembly. He encouraged everyone to take back to their communities the vision of the Metropolis Strategic Plan and for people to be prepared to get involved in this exciting process, as it will take the cooperation and collaboration of everyone to bring this plan into full implementation.

With their being no further business to discuss, the 2013 Clergy-Laity Assembly adjourned at 3:30 p.m. with a closing prayer offered by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kristen Bruska