

Minutes of Annual General Assembly Meeting  
Saint George Orthodox Church of Prescott  
November 9, 2014

Note: Annual General Assembly Meeting Slides are available on the website  
([www.prescottorthodox.org/2014-annual-meeting/](http://www.prescottorthodox.org/2014-annual-meeting/))

Parish Council Members present: George Rizk, Raymond Zogob, Ty Freedman, Kally Key, Kenny Scott, Matt Maxwell, Gina Clark

Absent: Helen Eastman, Kristie Niarkos

Priest: Fr. Jeffrey Frate

Opening Prayer and Election of Meeting Chair: The meeting began in the Church at 12:30 PM with a prayer led by Fr. Jeffrey. Raymond Zogob was named Chair of the Annual Meeting.

Pastor Report: Fr. Jeffrey recounted his and his family's arrival to Arizona in January 2014. He described his emotions as on one hand being full of hope and on other having some fears. He looked forward to being the priest at St. George but at the same time wondered how the parish would adjust after having lost two priests. He was also concerned on how his wife and children would adjust to the move. Father Jeffrey explained his fears had largely dissipated and he is now left with hope. He sees St. George as being on a new path towards stability and growth. He also discussed how the Archdiocese is recognizing the pan-Orthodox character of the today's Orthodox Church. This nature is apparent in the St. George parish.

Frank Tenerelli asked Father Jeffrey if the church would be known as St. George Orthodox Church or as a Greek Orthodox Church. Father Jeffrey explained that the church would be known as St. George Orthodox Church but that St. George is a parish of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco, which oversees the western region of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

Vision and Mission: Father Jeffrey reviewed the revised St. George Vision and Mission Statements.

**Vision**

Our vision for St. George Orthodox Church is to build a vibrant Orthodox Christian community that continues to grow; whose every activity is rooted in faith, hope, and love; and that transforms lives in our surrounding community by bringing them the Light of Christ.

**Mission**

We will fulfill our vision through concrete acts of hospitality and generosity, by providing frequent occasions for prayer and fellowship, and by deepening our knowledge and experience of the Orthodox faith. In all things we seek to commend ourselves, and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Pillars and Projects: The leaders for each of the three pillars reviewed plans for the upcoming year. Ty Freedman reviewed the Worship Pillar focusing on Education, Stewardship, and Liturgical enhancements. The Sunday School program under the direction of Carissa Maxwell is in full swing with four classes covering pre-school through high school. The 2015 Stewardship campaign will be kicked off on November 15 with a goal to reach 35 stewards. Liturgical classes for adults are being held three times a week. Each month the Akathist service will be held.

Matt Maxwell reviewed the Fellowship Pillar focusing on additional parish activities including a Feast Day Celebration, Godparent Sunday and Class, Trips to St. Anthony's as well as upgrades to the Gurley Street location including new signage, painting the exterior, a new kitchen and completion of the outdoor landscaping/playground project.

Kenny Scott reviewed the Outreach Pillar including increasing the Gyro Booth to twice a year in 2015, hosting a Pumpkin Patch Game Booth at the Prescott Pumpkin Patch, holding Easter and Christmas outreach events such as St. Nicholas Day as well as the Love and Logic Workshop. An increase in marketing and public relations will help draw the community to the church.

Sunday School: Sunday school classes are being held from 9:15 am to 10 am each Sunday with attendance proving greater than when the classes were held during fellowship. It was noted that enrollment was over 30 students and overall the teachers feel the program is succeeding.

President's Address: Dr. George Rizk reviewed accomplishments over the past year with number one being thankful for having Father Jeffrey as our priest! He noted that the Gyro Booth was a success with \$8,559 in gross and \$6,943 in net profit. He also noted improvements to the facility for our new tenant, the new storage room, the donation of the loukoumades machine and progress on the landscaping/playground.

George also provided an update on the land on Green Lane that will be the future home of St. George. He said that he would consider 75 stewards as a good marker for moving forward with a new Church and Community Center on Green Lane. A suggestion was made to change the sign on Green Lane to include the current location of St. George. The parish council will discuss this at their next meeting.

George also noted that this past year we were able to make \$20,000 in extra principle payments for the loan on the Gurley St. location. The current loan balance is \$259,348 with \$13K in interest payments and \$26.2K in principal payments made in 2014.

2015 Property Improvements and Programs: Raymond Zogob reviewed plans for next year's improvements including a full kitchen, repair and painting of the church exterior, and completion of landscaping and the playground. It was noted that this year the Food Basket program was expanded to 500 baskets and that the plan was to further expand the program in 2015.

Communication Plan: Raymond and Gina Clark reviewed the 2015 communication plan including more frequent updates to the parish. A chart was presented highlighting the various communication vehicles currently in place and the person responsible. The slide is available on the website as part of the General Meeting presentation.

Financials: Kally presented a 2014 Financial Update and the 2015 budget. She explained that we manage two separate budgets – the church budget and the building budget. This keeps the income we receive from renting the building separate from Stewardship, candles and tray income. The budget for 2015 was reviewed in detail with a consolidated net loss of \$8K planned.

A motion was made by Matt Maxwell to approve the 2015 Budget and seconded by Bill Kountanis. The 2015 Budget was passed.

Stewardship: Gina Clark reviewed the new Stewardship program that kicks off on November 15. Over the past year as the parish has been in transition stewardship has declined to 25 stewards. In order to continue to operate and grow St. George a goal was set to increase stewards to 35 families in 2015. Over the next several weeks there will be a focus on explaining stewardship to the parish and asking for stewardship commitments. St. George will continue to donate 10% of our stewardship to charities.

Kally Key read the minutes of the 2013 meeting. Matt Maxwell made the motion to approve the minutes with Ty Freedman seconding the motion. The minutes were approved.

The meeting ended with a prayer led by Fr. Jeffrey at 2:30 PM

Gina Clark

St. George Parish Council Secretary