

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church Capital Campaign Committee

Meeting No. 5

April 4, 2009

Minutes

Attendees: Dr. Chris Yiantsou, Nancy Medvic, Margaret Chokas, Louie Papaliodis, Paun Peters, Dr. Lou Antahades, George Vittas, Fr. Vasile Tudora

- Invocation by Fr. Vasile at 9:10 AM.
- Minutes of 2/14/09 Meeting #4 distributed, read and accepted.
- Agenda approved without change.
- **Financial Subcommittee**
 - Additional Bank reference received from Ashton Wynne to be contacted by Louis Papaliodis.
- **Program Implementation Subcommittee**
 - Nancy Medvic reviewed the results of her telephone calls to the Orthodox church references previously provided by RSI, as reported at last CCC meeting. Discussion followed and it was subsequently agreed the references were sufficient.
 - George Vittas briefly described the three alternatives available to plan and implement the capital campaign.
 - § Do it ourselves - The Parish has never done this before. At every time of need in the past a small group provided the capital to move ahead, but those were relatively small capital needs as compared to the current needs. The Parish has never undertaken a capital campaign of this magnitude and it is difficult to know where to begin.
 - § Archdiocese Office of Parish Development – The Office of Parish development does not have a track record of actually planning and managing a capital campaign. They excel in preparing and conducting surveys of parishioners to determine needs for improvements and to accurately assess what capital amount can be raised from parishioners. It is past the point where these types of surveys could be of use to our Parish since we have already identified a building program and have set a target capital goal based on early cost estimates.
 - § Retain RSI to assist in planning and managing the capital campaign using their proven fund raising methods. George suggested we retain the basic Level One services at a fee of \$19,500, as described in the RSI material and discussed with Mark Blackmore at the last meeting. In this manner the talents and capabilities of a number of parishioners could be put to

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maximum use at the least cost of outside professional consultant services.

- o Discussion

Chris Yiantsou and other members expressed opinions consultant services were not needed to raise spirituality of parishioners, and that harsh fiscal realities had to be addressed, first. These included meeting the current operating costs of the Parish with current stewardship and, meeting future operating costs with a new building.

Chris accepted the need for professional assistance but he said the Parish also has to “step up”. He suggested it would be imperative to raise as much capital as possible in the first year as opposed the typical 40/20/30 distribution of funds received in a three year campaign.

Nancy Medvic expressed the view the additional \$9,000 to increase RSI services by Mark Blackmore to Level Two would be a good investment and only a very small difference in cost as compared to an expected \$1 million fund raising goal.

Paun Peters agreed the Parish has competent people with business and other applicable experience but the \$28,000 amount for Level Two services would be well worth the additional involvement in Mark Blackmore’s time in the Parish, much like an insurance premium. Paun stated three reasons why he felt the capital campaign and building program are timely and need to move forward:

- o With the possibility of inflation, building costs would surely increase;
- o Charitable giving would likely become less tax advantageous under future IRS rules; and,
- o Father Vasile’s presence as our Parish Priest.

Louis Papaliadis stated he does not favor using RSI, or any consultant. He does not believe there will be sufficient benefit to justify the cost. Louie requested the record show he would not vote for retaining RSI but would accept the outcome of the discussion, continue to support the CCC and work with RSI to the best of his ability.

Lou Antahades expressed acceptance of the Level 2 Services approach but suggested additional checking of RSI’s background, especially for financial stability, would be desirable.

Margaret Chokas said we have been talking for a number of years and haven’t done anything; “it’s about time”.

Discussion concluded with consensus to recommend the RSI Level Two Services option to the Council, at the stated cost of \$28,000. Further, that Mark Blackburn would be invited back to a second meeting with the CCC, this time with the entire Council also invited, as soon as feasible after Easter. The purpose of this meeting

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would be for Mark Blackmore to expand the previous proposal with additional explanation of the Level Two services for Council understanding and approval.

- **Actions for Next Meeting**

- George Vittas to discuss suitable dates for the combined CCC/Council meeting with Harry Karegeannes and call Mark Blackmore to arrange for his presence.

- **Additional Business**

- Chris Yiantsou accepted the nomination to serve as Vice-Chairman of the CCC.
- Nancy Medvic accepted the nomination to serve as Secretary of the CCC.

- **The meeting was adjourned and Fr. Vasile gave the Benediction at 10:40 AM.**