

Meeting Minutes
Plenary Information and Planning Meeting
GOMSF Church Music Federation Ministry
Saturday, May 16, 2020
On-line Only via Zoom
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.PDST

In attendance: *Kay Harkins, Christopher Hondros, Sarah Gyurkovitz, Liz Levy, Kiki Kyriakakis, Athena Anastos, Meg Jakovas, Ross Ritterman, Jim Hronas, Kristen Bruskas, Fareeda Christ, Fr. Michael Pallad, Andrea Jervinis, Justin Jervinis, Kathleen DiGiovanni, Chris Vitakes*

Kay Harkins, Ministry Chair, welcomed all to the meeting at 1:00 PM and gave brief Zoom meeting instructions.

At 1:06 she welcomed **His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos**, who led an opening prayer and asked **Ross Ritterman** to chant “Christos Anesti.” His Eminence spoke on the importance of communal singing, choir, chanting, and singing for the younger generation, in whom he has seen a great thirst and interest in learning about the faith and the music of the faith. He thanked **Christopher Hondros** for his recent work providing instructional videos for the Metropolis COVID-19 page of the Metropolis website. John Boyer will be starting an ecclesiastical & Church Music School to provide inspirational music. His Eminence expressed his dedication to our work and reinforced that the music – chanting and singing hymns is what makes us orthodox and creates unity in the congregation to glorify God. He has a grateful heart for us and gives us his support. (He remained in the meeting through Kay Harkins opening remarks and up to the financial report.)

Kay Harkins returned to offer some brief opening remarks expressing the prayers and concern of the Leadership Circle for all church musicians and their families in this time of pandemic. She acknowledged the pain we are all feeling for not being able to sing and chant with one another in our parishes and remembered those who have died and those who are suffering with the illness, and the incredible workload of those tasked to care for the ill and dying. She expressed gratitude and optimism over the work that has been done and is ongoing to keep our mission alive going forward in a changing landscape. She then introduced Sarah and thanked her and **Costa Kourtis** for their work in the financial transition. She welcomed **Victoria Keegan** from St. Anthony Reno who has joined the Ways and Means Team to assist Sarah with financial record keeping.

Sarah Gyurkovitz, Ways and Means Team Leader then offered the Stewardship Financial Reports beginning with the Stewardship Report (Financial Reports appear at the end of these minutes.)

She noted that our stewardship is down significantly from this time last year, due to a number of factors and we anticipate that stewardship may be lower until the results of the pandemic have passed. While not a positive development, we do not feel overwhelming concern at this time as the ministry remains in a strong financial position. A Stewardship Appeal will be sent out before the beginning of the Liturgical year, which is the beginning of the ministry's fiscal year. She reinforced our belief that stewardship will build again in response to the many programs and resources that will continue to be offered over the next year and a half.

She then presented the overall financial picture of ministry noting that our funds have remained stable due in large part to the successful CMI held in January in Las Vegas which was supported by reimbursements from The National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians. She noted that upon transition from Costa's term as treasurer our savings account at Wells Fargo Bank was moved upon his suggestion to Chase Bank, who also holds our checking account. At that time both accounts were brought into compliance with current banking regulations and good practices for non-profits.

Following her formal report, she answered questions about how reimbursements from the National Forum work and the way our funds are divided between the savings and checking accounts.

Following Sarah's remarks **Meg Jakovas, Team Leader of the Records and Archives Team** introduced the minutes of the August 11, 2019 Plenary Information and Planning Meeting for approval. Christopher Hondros moved that they be accepted, and Vasiliki Kyraikakis seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Kay Harkins shared the following updates and announcements from the ministry.

- The Leadership Circle is unified with the Metropolis in the re-opening plans, understanding that it will likely be many months before choirs, larger chant groups, or congregational singing may return safely. They are keeping abreast of current updates from singing professionals and epidemiology on this topic.

- The Annual Conference scheduled for October 2020 at Holy Cross Belmont has been cancelled.
- The remaining requested Church Music Institutes have been postponed until they may be held safely. These CMIs were already in the planning stages and can quickly come online when such events can resume.
- We have been discovering that young church musicians have a keen hunger and desire to learn hymnology, traditions of the church, and to sing alongside adults. We have been accommodating this desire by creating CMIs with beginning and advanced components that allow this kind of learning, as we learned from our successful CMI in Las Vegas in January of 2020. We will continue to utilize this model going forward.
- Our ministry teams are beginning to grow. The Ways and Means Team has welcomed **Victoria Keegan** of St. Anthony, Reno. **Fareeda Christ** of Holy Trinity, San Francisco, **Kathleen DiGiovanni** and **Chris Vitakes** of Ascension Cathedral, Oakland have joined the Records and Archives Team. **Andrea Jervinis** of St. Anthony Reno is taking the role of newsletter editor on the Communication and Outreach Team.
- Many thanks go to **Liz Levy** for stepping in during the transition to help Kay with the Newsletter, and kudos go out to Kiki Kyriakakis and her group for affordably creating a fresh new brochure that Kay was able to present at Metropolis Clergy Laity Assembly in February.
- Although the COVID-19 pandemic has prevented in-person conferences and workshops, our Church Music Development Team has already been producing materials to foster the continuing development of our church musicians that can be utilized to allow choirs and chant groups to grow and feel a connection to their parishes preparing for a strong re-entrance when the time is right. Christopher Hondros will elaborate on those.
- Our ministry is now in a strong position financially, so the Leadership Circle has just voted to allocate \$4,000 in Desby Music Scholarships to be awarded to 8 church musicians in 2020. These scholarships will support church musicians and their parishes to offset the inevitable financial hardships that will be result of the pandemic. Official announcement, details, and application materials are forthcoming by mid-June.

Christopher Hondros, Church Music Development Team Leader, presented his update on Music Education Initiatives for both Youth and Adults.

In spite of its many downsides, the pandemic has actually jumpstarted some projects that may have waited until later in the year. We have been moving steadily on our original vision of the Multi-Media Music Kits with the hymnal in staff and Byzantine notations and accompanying audio files at near completion. Since Pascha we have been producing educational videos related to the Sundays after Pascha, which have been sent to Metropolis priests and music directors. These videos are a beginning of a library of on-line resources that will serve as supplemental lessons to the original Multimedia Kits. This library will not replace the excellent real time workshops and CMIs we have prepared and will continue to prepare. The library will be expanded with series on performance technique, music theory, and music literacy as well as additional hymns of the week.

Over the summer, we plan to establish this library on our website. At the moment they can all be accessed through link to a shared file on the educational tool, Loom. <https://loom.com/share/folder/9157e7d0760b41e6b6c1a95d0fbefd1a>

Also of interest, new on-line church music schools are being created by music professionals within and outside our Metropolis which we look forward to making people aware of.

Meg Jakovas began the Question and Answer period by asking Kay to give a timeline of next steps in the ministry.

- Kay indicated that the special scholarships would be announced in June, that our quarterly newsletters will continue, and another Plenary Information and Planning Meeting will occur before the end of the year, likely in October. She also noted that a very special event is in the early planning stages for the winter of 2020, which included a Winter 2022 tease.
- **Kathy DiGiovanni** asked about the nature of the scholarships as to whether they are more like grants for groups rather individuals. Kay explained that the scholarships are intended primarily for individuals in accordance with the guidelines established for the Desby scholarships that are posted on the ministry website. A special panel will be convened to clarify these guidelines in respect to the special nature of this year's offerings.
- **Victoria Keegan** expressed the emotional response she was feeling at our not being able to sing and attend the services of the Church. A good discussion ensued enabling everyone to support and encourage one another.

Fr. Michael Pallad offered closing remarks and prayer, encouraging us all to practice compassion and patience with one another and to continue to practice our musical gifts, reminding us that learning and practicing music brings great solace.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m. PDST.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Stewardship Comparison Report

Stewardship 2019-2020

**\$350.00 Parish Contribution
\$929.64 Individual Contributions
There were 3 contributing parishes, 14 individual contributors**

Total \$1179.64 for 2019-2020 (through May 11th)

Stewardship 2018-2019

**\$1385.00 Parish Contributions
\$4365.00 Individual Contributions
There were 16 contributing parishes, 78 individual stewards**

Total \$5750.00 for 2018-2019

OVERALL Financial report from 09/01/2019-05/11/2020

**Current account balances:
Chase checking \$30,859.93
Chase savings \$30,000.86**

Income

Total income for this period is \$5759.70

Sources:

**National Forum
\$2517.56-Las Vegas CMI Reimbursement
\$70.00-Church Music Sunday Reimbursement**

**Stewardship
\$350.00 Parish Contribution
\$929.64 Individual Contributions
There was 3 contributing parish, 14 individual contributors**

**Las Vegas CMI
\$1992.50**

Expenses

Total expenses for this period is \$4003.26

\$3182.56-Las Vegas CMI

\$116.11-Printing for outreach brochures

\$127.59-External hard drive for Records & Archive team

\$349.00-Charms

\$30-Icon for Kathy Trapp award recipient

\$198-Travel reimbursement (ranch conference cancellation)

Total net gain \$1756.44