
Historic General Assembly Unanimously Adopts Mission Statement, Goals and Projects for Parish

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Vision Committee Overview

On Sunday, November 7, the Holy Trinity Vision Committee presented its long-awaited report to the General Assembly. This report summarized the information gathered from the community over the past two years regarding the present life and future direction of Holy Trinity Church. Major areas of community input into this important process included the Parish Survey, the Coffee Hour Roundtable discussions and other discussions with the Parish Council and parish ministry groups.

After working with a great deal of sensitivity to the history of the community and vision for the future of the parish, the Committee presented their preliminary report to a special meeting of the Parish Council on October 26, 1999. After a fruitful discussion and a few adjustments, the report was unanimously approved by the Parish Council for presentation to the General Assembly for adoption.

Finally, on Sunday, November 7, the Vision Committee, represented by Chairman Gus Georgiadis and Co-Presenter Dr. Christ A. Balouris, presented the complete report to the Holy Trinity Parish General Assembly. In two separate motions, the General Assembly first unanimously accepted and endorsed the Mission Statement, then in a separate and unanimous vote also adopted the Goals and Projects as presented.

So that every parishioner in the community has access to this important information, it is being presented here with a brief explanation. Please

retain it for your records. Questions on these matters can be address to Gus Georgiadis, Dr. Christ Balouris, Fr. John or any Parish Council member. Thank you, everyone, for your participation in this watershed event in the life of Holy Trinity Church. May the Lord bless this and every effort we undertake in His Name!



Input from Coffee Hour Roundtable Discussions

The following information summarizes broad conclusions drawn from input received during two "Coffee Hour Roundtable Sessions." Everyone was invited to provide feedback on a variety of issues important to the life of the community. Facilitators from the Vision Committee were given the task of receiving parishioner input and bringing it back to the Committee for analysis. Here are the major issues gleaned:

- 1 Generally, parishioners believe the hospitality of our community, the wide array of programs and activities for most age groups, and the liturgical and cultural aspects of our focus provides the incentives to be part of the Holy Trinity Community.
- 2 Parishioners believe a formal welcoming and follow up system, as well as focused and organized activities for specific groups rather than the community at large will attract new members. In addition, we should reach out to part-time members and

those who are no longer involved to determine the cause for their change and their ideas to become re-involved.

- 3 Scheduling conflicts, transportation limitations and the Northside “stigma” are the barriers to other than Sunday involvement. Continued focus from Father John, creation of mini programs and family nights, availability of organized athletic events and suburban programs will provide opportunities for community interaction on days of the week in addition to Sundays.
- 4 Parishioners are more likely to provide additional financial support for specific or directed purposes as long as the requests are coupled with good and timely information.
- 5 Fellowship, Bible study, educational and liturgical programs for all age groups and categories (e.g., husband/wife, dads, 30-45 year olds, etc.) will enhance the daily life at Holy Trinity. In addition, seeking to combine Greek School with other communities and offering programs in locations of more convenience to parishioners.



Mission Statement development

Based on the above input, the Vision Committee began the formulation of the Mission Statement using the following collection of ideas. Over a series of meetings, these ideas were then prayerfully evaluated, re-worked, expanded and condensed until a complete, working statement was produced. The ideas are presented here to provide the reader with an idea of the processes which were undertaken and the diligence of the effort.

Mission Statement Preliminary Ideas:

- ◆ The Holy Trinity Community is firmly founded in the teachings of Jesus Christ and, as parishioners, we strive to pursue our daily lives accordingly through regular worship and participation in the holy sacraments.
- ◆ The mission of Holy Trinity is to embellish

the “hospitality and fellowship of Abraham” (as seen in the Holy Trinity icon) in the daily conduct of our lives. We respect, and desire to maintain and flourish in the cultural heritage provided by our ancestors.

- ◆ We recognize as a community our diversity and the need to offer all parishioners appropriate and meaningful opportunities for involvement. We believe our programs and activities should provide educational and social value, and should be available in the most appropriate settings to enhance participation from all components of our community.
- ◆ Our stewardship encourages parishioners to contribute their time, talents and treasures to support Holy Trinity and our mission on an ongoing basis.

The above ideas, when combined with the overall identity and mission of the Orthodox Christian Church, provided the basis for the final statement for presentation to the Parish Council and General Assembly.

As explained in the presentations by the Vision Committee, the purpose of the Mission Statement is to provide a permanent sense of identity and purpose for a community, a concise answer to the questions, “What are we as a community?” and, “What do we do as a result of that identity?” Although businesses often undertake a similar process, within the Church this is and must be a God-inspired process and statement.

In the future, the Mission Statement will be an indelible guidepost in the life of Holy Trinity Church. It becomes the foundation of the Goals and Projects, which are more dynamic in nature and short-term in duration. It becomes the basis on which to evaluate new ministries, grow current ones and even decide where and how Holy Trinity Church will best fulfill that Mission.

As suggested in the General Assembly, it will be posted prominently and reproduced often as a God-inspired tool for this generation and generations to come.

It is presented here in its entirety as adopted by the General Assembly.



Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

MISSION STATEMENT

“THE MISSION OF HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IS TO PROCLAIM AND LIVE THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ITS FULLNESS AS FAITHFUL MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST.”

This sacred mission is fulfilled in the Holy Spirit through the following expressions of ministry:

- ✦ **A *worship ministry*** which nurtures the faithful through regular participation in the sacred services and holy mysteries of the Church.
- ✦ **A *teaching ministry*** which strives to educate and inspire the faithful through the Sacred Scriptures and Holy Tradition of the Church.
- ✦ **An *outreach ministry*** which fulfills the command of Jesus Christ to reach out to the sick and needy, to serve the least of our brethren, and to spread the Gospel both locally and throughout the world.
- ✦ **A *hospitality ministry***, which welcomes visitors and new members to the community with love and respect, and which actively embraces the parish's involvement with other churches.
- ✦ **A *fellowship ministry***, which provides a variety of opportunities for all members of the parish to share in activities with one another through appropriate cultural, social and educational events that reflect the life, faith and cultural heritage of the community.
- ✦ **A *stewardship ministry*** which engenders the faithful dedication of the time, talents and treasures of parishioners in support of the ministries of the Church to the glory of God.

In accepting this mission we acknowledge and confess that it is not in our power alone to accomplish this divine and sacred work. We will succeed only through the use of our own God-given gifts blessed by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion and fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

Unanimously adopted November 7, 1999



Goals and Projects Adopted

Goals are the outcomes expected from pursuit of the mission and in the fulfillment of the expressions of ministry. The goals are stated as long-term expectations of the community and are best achieved through projects and activities.

Projects and activities are the specific steps or actions to be taken by the community in the pursuit of any particular goal. While the projects and activities are general, there is enough clarity for a committee to proceed and enough flexibility to succeed. Projects and activities are fluid and short-term in length.

The following goals and projects were presented and adopted by the General Assembly to give the newly adopted Mission Statement immediate impact and focus in the daily life of Holy Trinity Church:

Goal: *Inspire parishioners to actively and regularly participate and become involved with reverence in the liturgical life of the Church.*

Project: Emphasize and maintain the Treasures of Orthodoxy through strengthened participation in feast days, Holy Week and other special services.

Project: Enhance regular communication of upcoming services.

Project: Continue and expand the emphasis on children's and others involvement.

Project: Introduce opportunities for active parishioner involvement in worship (singing of liturgical hymns and participating in the sacraments).

Goal: *Provide on going educational and study programs in the Holy Tradition, Scriptures and history of the Orthodox Church for all parishioners and prospective members.*

Project: Offer specialized study programs to meet the needs of specific parishioner groups, both youth and adult.

Project: Make available to all parishioners printed material on a regular basis, explaining in Greek and English the hymns and prayers unique to particular services.

Project: Equip the Church school program with up-to-date materials.



Goal: *Offer an environment and physical structure that is accessible and conducive to the daily requirements of the community.*

Project: Conduct an assessment of the existing facilities and other options to determine the price and feasibility, within our time and talents, of the plans necessary to meet Holy Trinity's goals.

Goal: *Maintain an active outreach ministry.*

Project: Create broad outreach to parishioners in hospitals and nursing homes.

Project: Develop a regular parishioner-involved schedule of visitations and assistance to the homebound and the elderly.

Project: Encourage and provide for the involvement of parishioners and parish groups in official mission programs of the Church.

Project: Provide regular support of local area programs for the needy.

Goal: *Embrace and welcome new members and renew the participation of lapsed members.*

Project: Create a Holy Trinity "Philoxenia" Club.

Project: Sponsor "New Member" and "Welcome Back" events.

Project: Develop a formal welcome packet for new members and initiate contact with lapsed members.

Goal: *Build a sense of community by hosting cultural and social events.*

Project: Promote participation in Diocesan and Archdiocesan sponsored programs.

Project: Conduct "Notable Speakers" sessions each year—religious and cultural.

Project: Offer cultural and social programs for youth and adults in areas of dance, culinary arts, music, history, etc.

Project: Provide Greek language programs for youth and adults.

Goal: *Achieve consistent and regular growth in the stewardship program.*

Project: Conduct stewardship events and maintain an active presence of stewardship committee members within the community.

Project: Offer a variety of appealing stewardship information and communications.

Project: Maintain an up-to-date time and talents data base and distribute the information to appropriate organizations within the community.