The meeting was called to order at 3:40 pm by President Paul Mavromihalis, who also led the group in an opening prayer.

The Roll Call of Delegates was read by Secretary Miriam Kotsonis. There were 14 eligible Choir votes and 11 eligible Board votes, resulting in a total voting strength for the meeting of 25.

District I (MD) (4) – Annapolis, Baltimore Annunciation, Bethesda, Falls Church
District II (VA) (3) – Newport News, Norfolk, Richmond
District III (NJ) (5) – Asbury Park/Ocean, Piscataway, Trenton/Hamilton, Westfield, Staten Island
District IV (Greater PHL) (2) – Broomall, Media

Board Voting Members Present (10 people, representing 11 votes) – Kathryn Athanasoulas, Sondra Awad, Alexa Garrison, Kay Kehayas, Maria Keritsis, Miriam Kotsonis (Secretary and Continuing Education), Nick Kyrus, Paul Mavromihalis, Fotini Nichols, Drucie Papafil

SUSPENSION OF AGENDA for MUSIC REVIEW – Paul Mavromihalis suspended the Agenda in order to hold the music review for the 2020 Federation Conference early in the meeting.

Music/Conductor Selection (Kathryn Athanasoulas, Chair, and Nick Kyrus)

Music packets with several hymns of each liturgy under consideration were distributed and attendees were given the opportunity to sing short segments of the music. Candidates included: Gallos II (the 2019 Conference Liturgy), Lawrence, Limberakis, and Roubanis. All four arrangements offer both English and Greek texts for the music. At this point in the meeting, Annapolis graciously volunteered to host the 2020 Conference. A discussion of the liturgies ensued, the members caucused, and the voting members submitted their secret ballots. The Council selected the Roubanis Liturgy for 2020.

The Council then discussed the Conductor for 2020. Candidates included: Chris Kypros, Paul Mavromihalis, and Lucy Pappadakes. The process of discussion, caucus, and voting was again followed, and Lucy Pappadakes was selected.

The Agenda was then resumed.
OFFICERS’ REPORTS

Secretary Miriam Kotsonis asked that everyone look over the Minutes of the 2017 Council Meeting, which were distributed in the 2018 Council Packet (page 3). She mentioned a few highlights. Drucie Papafil moved to approve, Helen Beldecos seconded, and the motion passed.

President’s Report – Paul Mavromihalis gave highlights of his report for the year. The full text will be posted on the EFGOCM website in the Council Packet, page 7.

2017 Conference: Paul thanked Fr. George Parsenios, the Hon. Marina Corodemus, and the parish of Saint Demetrios, Perth Amboy NJ, for hosting the 2017 conference during their 100th Anniversary celebration weekend. He also thanked Nick Kyrus for conducting the first-ever full-choir performance of the Gallos IV liturgical arrangement, Teodora Adzharova for accompanying, the Rev. George Parsenios for holding a workshop on “Liturgy & Life: Orthodox Hymnography and the Formation of Christian Character,” and Miriam Kotsonis for recording and producing the 2017 Conference CD.

National Forum St. Romanos Nominations and Awards: Our Federation Board submitted 2 nominees and both were selected: Maria Keritsis, EFGOCM Board Member and National Forum Chairman, for her outstanding contributions to the well-being of our church music and musicians, most recently for leading the effort to create and publish approved English translations of the Liturgical Hymns; and Athan Theodores, of blessed memory, who was one of the earliest composer-music educators and mentors of the Greek Orthodox Church in the USA, highly active in the first half of the 20th century. Αξιοι! Axioi!

2019 Conference: We are still seeking a host for next year’s conference. The music selected is the new Gallos II 2nd Edition, which includes the newly approved English translation, and it will be premiered under the direction of Nick Kyrus.

Treasurer’s Report – In Adam Birnbaum’s absence, Hope Demitry presented the report. Details can be found in the Council Packet, page 10. Drucie Papafil moved to approve and adopt the Proposed 2019 Budget, seconded by Katina Kehayas. The motion was passed.

DISTRICT REPORTS

The District reports are in the Packet (pp. 12-13), with highlights summarized in the meeting. Supervisors are currently Faye Hayes, District I (MD), Alexa Garrison, District II (VA), Kathryn Athanasoulas, District III (NJ), and Pamela Sande, District IV (Greater PHL). They said few member churches respond, making it hard to generate these reports and to understand how best to support church music in each District. Alexa Garrison gave examples of steps that she has taken (e.g., sending member churches useful information, sending copies of the Roubanis conference music, and making personal contact.) Alexa also requested that the District II report be corrected to state that Norfolk had not been able to participate in the September 15 regional rehearsal due to severe weather; this correction will be incorporated into the 2018 Council Packet as posted on the EFGOCM website.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Scholarship – Chair Maria Keritsis reported that they continue to solicit applications for next year’s scholarships to outstanding young musicians. She said that the committee had awarded 2018 scholarship renewals to our three 2017 winners (Joey Chavez, Richmond, VA; Peter Papadopoulos,
Broomall, PA; and Elias Kotsis, Holmdel, NJ), and asked attendees to encourage the young musicians in our parishes to apply for these scholarships. Paul mentioned that he had received information on Pan-Hellenic Scholarships in the Arts (to be distributed as appropriate in the ListServ email) which might also be helpful to musically talented youth. The full report is on page 15 of the Council Packet.

Communications – Chair Nick Kyros asked attendees to read the report (p. 15). He then awarded 25-year Choir Service certificates and told the group that we would be celebrating and recognizing several choir members with 70+ years, with a special recognition for those who had attained 75 years. He reiterated that it is important to send updated rosters to Susan Karcanes, and thanked her for her work.

Administration – Chair Kay Kehayas reported that the Committee (she, Kathryn Athanasoulas, and Hope Demitry) plans to continue the Charter update this year. She reminded the group to watch for ListServ mail in January with reminders for May 1st due dates: Athenagoras Award nominations, scholarship applications, and suggestions of music and conductors for the next conference.

Youth – Chair Sondra Awad said that the main focus this year had been at the national level, with the revision of the “Hymns of the Orthodox Church” teaching series. Sondra has played a major role both in the creation of an instructional CD, together with Lucy Pappadakes, and in publicizing the new materials. Additional information is on page 16 of the Packet.

Continuing Education – Chair Miriam Kotsonis reported on CMI status (see page 17 of the Packet). She invited anyone interested in helping with Continuing Education to contact her. She also shared links to an informal video of a District 3 workshop on breathing, posture, and warm-ups.

- Part 2 (28 mins): https://www.youtube.com/edit?o=U&video_id=ezwzsOmWK0I

OLD BUSINESS

Music/Conductor Selection
See above
NEW BUSINESS

Board Elections – Chair Ginny Botsis explained the procedure and managed the voting tally. For the office of President, candidates were Paul Mavromihalis and Sondra Award (nomination from the floor). A discussion, caucuses, and secret balloting of eligible voters followed. The vote resulted in Paul’s election. For the remaining offices of Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, candidates were Barbara Bambacus, Miriam Kotsonis, and PJ Missiras, respectively. They were elected by acclamation. The Districts caucused to elect Supervisors: District I (MD) elected Fifi Nichols, District II (VA) elected Alexa Garrison, District III (NJ) elected Kathryn Athanasoulas, and District IV (Greater PHL) elected Pam Sande. Paul thanked departing Board members for their service and welcomed new members.

GOOD OF THE FEDERATION

2020 Conference Location: Annapolis representatives restated their desire to host the 2020 Conference, and Paul requested that they send him an official letter to this effect.

Discussion of Ways to Increase Attractiveness of Conferences: Miriam facilitated a brief discussion by Council participants. People spoke about the challenges of work schedule conflicts, creating a need to accommodate those who can only join the conference on Saturday with more rehearsals then, and to hold the CMI on Thursday and Friday. Attendees suggested providing increased learning to be better musicians and singers (specific idea to provide Music Theory for young people), holding sectional rehearsals, and increasing the focus on inviting and incorporating younger singers. Another idea was to provide discounts for youth and first-time participants. Several participants commented that the success of the conference is strongly dependent on the host church: if attendees have an engaging, comfortable, and welcoming experience, then they are likely both to return and to recruit others who may not already be attendees.

Motion to adjourn was made by Sondra Awad and seconded by Miriam Kotsonis. The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Kotsonis
Secretary

Note: All Reports were published in the October 13, 2018, Federation Council Meeting Packet, which is attached to these Council Minutes.

At.
Corrected 2018 Federation Council Meeting Packet
EASTERN FEDERATION OF GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH MUSICIANS
OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

FEDERATION COUNCIL MEETING
October 13, 2018  Richmond, Virginia
FEDERATION COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
October 13, 2018    Richmond, Virginia

I. Call to Order
   a. Opening Prayer                          Spiritual Advisor
   b. Roll Call of Delegations                Miriam Kotsonis
   c. Minutes of the Prior Council Meeting (p. 3) Miriam Kotsonis
   d. President’s Report (p. 7)                Paul Mavromihalis
   e. Treasurer’s Report (p. 10)               Adam Birnbaum

II. District Supervisor Reports
    a. District 1 – MD (p. 12)                 Faye Hayes
    b. District 2 – VA (p. 12)                Alexa Garrison
    c. District 3 – NJ (p. 13)                Kathryn Athanasoulas
    d. District 4 – Gtr PHL (p. 14)           Pam Sande

III. Committee Reports
    a. Scholarship (p. 15)                    Maria Keritsis
    b. Communications (p. 15)                 Nick Kyrus
    c. Administration (p. 16)                  Katina Kehayas
    d. Youth (p. 16)                          Sondra Awad
    e. Continuing Education (p. 17)            Miriam Kotsonis

IV. Old Business
    a. 2019 Site & 2020 Music/Conductor Selection Kathryn Athanasoulas/Nick Kyrus

V. New Business
    a. Elections                               Virginia Botsis

VI. Good of the Federation

VII. Adjourn and Closing Prayer                  Paul Mavromihalis/Spiritual Advisor
The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by President Paul Mavromihalis. Rev. Fr. George Parsenios opened with a prayer.

The Roll Call of Delegates was read by Secretary Miriam Kotsonis. 15 Choirs and 12 Board Members were present and eligible to vote. Total voting strength for the meeting was 27.

District I (MD) (3) – Baltimore Annunciation, Bethesda, Falls Church
District II (VA) (3) – Newport News, Norfolk, Richmond
District III (NJ) (7) – Asbury Park/Ocean, Perth Amboy, Piscataway, Trenton/Hamilton, Westfield, Staten Island, Flemington
District IV (Greater PHL) (2) – Broomall, Media

Board Voting Members Present – Kathryn Athanasoulas, Sondra Awad, Alexa Garrison, Faye Hayes, Kay Kehayas, Maria Keritsis, Miriam Kotsonis, Nick Kyrus, Paul Mavromihalis, Fotini Nichols, Drucie Papafil, Pamela Sande

OFFICERS’ REPORTS
Secretary Miriam Kotsonis asked that everyone look over the Minutes of the 2016 Council Meeting, which were distributed in the 2017 Council packets. They had also been posted in draft form on the EFGOCM website for prior review. Pam Sande moved to approve as written, Kathryn Athanasoulas seconded, and the motion passed.

President’s Report – Paul Mavromihalis read highlights of his report for the year. He thanked Fr. Dimitrios Antokas, Perry Alexion, and choir members of Saint George Bethesda for hosting the 2016 conference, Fotini Nichols for conducting Frank Desby’s liturgical arrangement and Teodora Adzharova for accompanying, and the Rev. Stefanos Alexopoulos for giving a workshop on “Hymnology, Music, and the Liturgy.”

Paul thanked Miriam for recording and producing the 2016 Conference CD and stated that he hoped this would become an annual offering. He thanked Nick for all the work he does for Communications and the ListServ. He also thanked Drucie for her ongoing electronic publication of The First Mode.

Paul told the Council that we had introduced and evaluated initiatives to promote Federation Conference participation. He mentioned last year’s Anna Gallos Scholarship award of $1,000, which had been given to Elias Nicholas Kotsis of Holmdel NJ.

In 2017, the Board met twice prior to the Conference: in Fulton, MD, in March and at the Metropolis of NJ Clergy Laity Assembly in Garfield, NJ, in May. Eight Board members represented the EFGOCM at the Metropolis Clergy Laity Assembly (three more called in for the Board meeting). Thirteen EFGOCM members attended the annual meeting of the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians held in Flushing, NY. Our Federation had the largest number of participants.

At the Metropolis Clergy Laity Assembly, several clergymen visited our Board meeting. They expressed a need for a stronger bridge between youth musical activities and adult choirs. Youth Committee Chair Sondra Awad is working to define a Bridging the Gap Youth Initiative to more effectively recruit young people into our choirs. Paul asked anyone with ideas and interest in this area to contact Sondra.

The NJ District sponsored a workshop at Holy Trinity, Westfield, on November 13, 2016. The clinician, Valerie van Hoven, a faculty member at Montclair State University, presented Breathing Coordination for Singers, based on the Alexander Technique. Our Federation has CMI funds available for use between now and the end of June, 2018. Paul encouraged all Districts to propose CMIs, saying we were limited only by our energy and ideas. He asked attendees to suggest topics to their District Supervisors.

Paul thanked the members of the Saint Demetrios Parish of Perth Amboy, NJ, for hosting us during their 100th Anniversary weekend. He then announced the date of the 2018 EFGOCM Conference, October 11-14, 2018,
hosted by the Saints Constantine & Helen Cathedral Choir of Richmond, VA. He mentioned that we are seeking a host for the 2019 Conference.

A summary of the 2017 National Forum Annual Meeting Summary was referenced and included in the packet.

**Treasurer's Report** – In Adam Birnbaum's absence, Paul presented the report. He stated that we had a nearly $2,000 surplus in 2017. He suggested that attendees look through the report, which has many helpful explanatory notes. He turned his attention to the 2018 proposed budget, explaining its format and the elements of the proposal. Paul noted that Adam proposed a balanced budget, which includes $1,875 for reserves in 2018. Drucie Papafil moved to approve and adopt the Proposed 2018 Budget, seconded by Ann Sophocles. The motion was passed.

**DISTRICT REPORTS**

Paul introduced each District Supervisor: Faye Hayes, District I (MD), Alexa Garrison, District II (VA), Kathryn Athanasoulas, District III (NJ), and Pamela Sande, District IV (Greater PHL). The District Supervisors mentioned highlights of their reports, which were included in the packets.

**District I:** Faye congratulated our 2017 Conference Music Director, Nick Kyrus and Accompanist, Teodora Adzharova, whom the MD district views as “their own.” She reported on an exciting youth initiative in their District. Fifi Nichols and Faye Hayes from Annunciation Cathedral, Baltimore, implemented a new music program at Camp Good Shepherd - Chesapeake Bay. They "went to camp" for four days. They taught hymns and responses Monday through Wednesday, and on Thursday morning, all fifty campers sang the entire Divine Liturgy in English.

**District II:** Alexa said that it was very difficult to get feedback from the churches that have congregational singing rather than choirs. This is a source of challenge when trying to communicate and build the Federation. She referred attendees to her report for details of activities in Richmond and Newport News, and asked for their support in seeking out responsive contacts in other District churches.

**District III:** Kathryn reported on the successful Lenten Concert, held for the 27th year. Perth Amboy hosted the event as part of their 100th Anniversary celebrations. She thanked Kay Kehayas for directing the Holy Cross Choir in Asbury Park this past September and noted that it is challenging to get new singers to replace those who have moved, retired, or passed away. We did have two new singers in 2017, bringing the current total to 25 (in 2005, the number was 43). She announced an upcoming collaborative Christmas concert together with the Pan-Orthodox Spirit of Orthodoxy Choir, planned for December 8 at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Clifton.

**District IV** – Pam asked attendees to read her report in the interest of time. She requested the support of all attendees to help build attendance, participation, and communication with the churches in the district, very few of which respond to her requests for news or offers of help. She called on the Council membership to be our ambassadors to other churches as well as their own, in order to expand membership and help ensure the future of choirs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Scholarship** – Chair Maria Keritsis reported that they continue to solicit applications for next year’s scholarships to outstanding young musicians. She said that they had received warm letters of appreciation from these young people, whom we hope to groom to come in and take our places. She asked attendees to be sure to congratulate our three 2017 recipients if we know them (Joey Chavez, Richmond, VA; Peter Papadopoulos, Broomall, PA; and Elias Kotsis, Holmdel, NJ), and encourage the young musicians in our parishes to apply for these scholarships. Paul mentioned that he had received information on Pan-Hellenic Scholarships in the Arts (to be distributed in the next ListServ email) which might also be helpful to musically talented youth.

**Communications** – Chair Nick Kyrus asked attendees to read the report. He then awarded 25-year Choir Service certificates. He reiterated that is important to send updated rosters to Susan Karcanes, and thanked her for her work. Since it is desirable to update them every year, a request was made by a Council member to mail out the current roster to all choirs next year. Nick urged attendees to visit the EFGOCM website and see all the helpful information that is posted there. Drucie reminded everyone that *The First Mode* is exclusively distributed on-line. (For the few people who do not use computers at all, she asked choir directors to print out copies.) She urged
everyone to sign up for ListServ and to encourage all members of their choirs to do so, in order to receive information from the Federation.

**Administration** – Chair Kay Kehayas reported that the Committee (comprised of herself, Kathryn Athanasoulas, and Hope Demitry) continues to review governing documents. She reminded the group that the deadline for submission of Athenagoras Award and scholarship nominations is May 1, so that they can be considered annually at the Spring EFGOCM Board meeting. May 1 is also the due date for nominations of music and conductors for the 2020 Conference.

**Youth** – Chair Sondra Awad said that most news had been covered by Faye and Paul. She asked attendees to help her find out more about how churches “bridge the gap” to encourage youth participation in our choirs. She mentioned that in her church, while it is difficult to involve youth in choirs for weekly Liturgies, she has had good results getting help from them with special projects (in this case, the Hymnology Series recording). Sondra described the Hymnology Series, being produced by the National Forum. Each hymn is accompanied by an icon, music, descriptions about the icon and music, and teaching suggestions. In an earlier Hymnology Series, the group *Eikona* performed the hymns. In the new series coming out, now in its final stages, Sondra is making the recording with a youth choir. For each hymn, the children perform it first, followed by a “teaching” track in which an adult, Lucy Pappadakes of Charlotte, NC, sings a phrase, echoed by the children. Sondra requested that attendees speak to their Religious Education directors, youth directors, and other relevant groups to purchase the series and incorporate it into Sunday School classes.

**Continuing Education** – Chair Miriam Kotsonis reported that the National Forum had agreed to partially reimburse speaker/clinician expenses for 4-hour Church Music Institutes (at 40%), while continuing to reimburse 6-hour CMIs (100%). Because of this new option, she collected attendee preferences via a survey at this year’s Conference and summarized results during the Council meeting. There were 38 participants, a response rate of approximately 70%. Key results are given below. Miriam reminded attendees that there was money for CMIs this year and encouraged its use. She also asked those interested in helping with CMIs to contact her.

- **Continuing Education Topics:**
  - Highest interest: How to use voice well, how to sound better as a choir
  - Moderate interest: Becoming a better sight-reader, hymns as prayer, how hymns fit into Liturgy and other services, learning more about Byzantine music structure
  - Lowest interest: How to read Byzantine notation, how to read Western notation
- **Formats:**
  - 4-hour (rated #1); 6-hour (#2)
  - Two 2-hour sessions (distant #3); three 2-hour sessions or two 3-hour sessions (#4)
- **Locations:**
  - Good support for in-District sessions, almost as good for sessions at Conference (note: at Conferences, two 2-hour sessions were more acceptable than when in the District)
  - Limited interest in on-line sessions having reduced interactivity with presenter
- **Short** (one hour or less) on-line learning sessions:
  - Positive for recorded sessions to be seen/heard whenever convenient
  - Much less interest in attending live presentations on-line

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Music/Conductor Selection (Kathryn Athanasoulas, Chair, and Nick Kyrus)**

Nick described the overall process: the EFGOCM normally selects music and conductors for two years in advance. Members submit nominations before the deadline (May 1) of each year. From the list of nominations, the Board selects a subset to be presented to the Council. Because of the ongoing publication of new English translations, in 2016 we deferred the 2018 selection in order to have a greater choice of music. Therefore we now need to
vote on 2018 and 2019 music. Before lunch we presented the music and sang several hymns from each liturgy. Paul noted that liturgies available in both languages allow selection of a blend of languages appropriate for the host church.

The choices for 2018 and 2019 music were identical: Gallos IV (2017 selection), Gallos II in Greek/English; Limberakis in Greek/English; and Roubanis. Choices for conductor for both years were: Nick Kyrus, Fifi Nichols, and Lucy Pappadakes (Southeastern Federation). For 2018, the Roubanis Liturgy was selected, conducted by Fifi Nichols. For 2019, the Gallos II Liturgy was selected, conducted by Nick Kyrus.

NEW BUSINESS

Good of the Federation Drucie requested outreach by all attendees, asking them to visit nearby parishes, talk with them, and keep encouraging them to participate, offering to help with resources.

Paul Mavromihalis moved to adjourn and Maria Keritsis seconded; adjournment was at 2:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Kotsonis
Secretary

Note: All Reports are included in the October 28, 2017, Federation Council Meeting packet.
My deep appreciation to the Board for their collective efforts in making these achievements possible.

Last Year’s Highlights

- Our **2017 Annual Conference** premiered the new **Gallos IV Liturgy**, which coincided with the 100th Anniversary weekend of Saint Demetrios, Perth Amboy NJ. The theme of the weekend was Saint Demetrios of Thessaloniki. Nick Kyrus conducted and Teodora Adzharova accompanied. Rev. Fr. George Parsenios gave a workshop on “Liturgy & Life: Orthodox Hymnography and the Formation of Christian Character.” A Friday evening concert by the Arcadian Choral, directed by Marina Alexander, included excerpts from the *Oratorio St Demetrios* by Nicolas Astrinidis.

- The **Anna Gallos Scholarship** was awarded to Elias Kotsis of Holmdel NJ, Joey Chavez of Richmond VA, and Peter Papadopoulos of Broomall PA, who attended the Conference Banquet to receive his scholarship. This annual award is allocated from the earnings generated by the principal.

- The Athenagoras Medallion was presented to Miriam Kotsonis. 'Ἀξιος! Axios!

- Thanks to Nick Kyrus for managing our web page and increasing the use of our Listserv, and to Drucie Papafil for continuing our newsletter *The First Mode*.

- Thanks to Miriam Kotsonis for producing the 2nd annual offering of the complementary EFGOCM Conference memento CD to registrants.

- The Board held meetings in March in Richmond, and in May in New Jersey at the MONJ CLA.

- Our Federation was represented by 9 of our 15 Board members at this year’s Metropolis of New Jersey Clergy Laity Assembly in May, and was also represented by 7 EFGOCM Board members at the 2018 NF annual meeting held in Boston in July. A summary is provided below.

- Our Federation Board submitted 2 nominees for the National Forum’s Saint Romanos the Melodist Medallion, presented to those church musicians who have made exemplary national contributions to church music in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Both were selected.

  Athan Theodores was awarded the Saint Romanos Medallion posthumously. He served as the first Instructor of Byzantine and European Music at our first official Theological Seminary and as Choirmaster of the Annunciation Cathedral in Baltimore from 1937-1948. He composed/arranged inspiring liturgical hymns as well as sacred, secular, and folk songs; and mentored 2 of our most prolific composers, Anna Gallos and Georgia Tangires. 'Ἀξιός! Axios!

  Our own Maria Keritsis was also awarded the Saint Romanos Medallion. She is the current Chairman of the National Forum; her work began with its inception in 1976. Maria works tirelessly, striving to take Forum projects to the next level and into a new era. She recently and very significantly provided leadership and guidance, in her role as the primary interface with the Synod, for the Forum’s English translations of the Liturgical Hymns. This vital support of the Synod’s official translation of the Divine Liturgy has resulted in the new pew hymnal. ‘Ἀξιός! Axios!

- Developed a new Strategic Planning Initiative during a 2 day Board Retreat in Richmond in March:
  - Build stronger relationships with our Metropolitan/Clergy
  - Establish a vibrant youth music program
  - Foster a more spiritually engaging choir experience
  - Build support for a comprehensive music ministry
  - Provide more educational opportunities
  - Encourage more participation in choirs

- Youth Committee Chair Sondra Awad is continuing to develop an initiative for our Federation to develop a youth recruiting program to establishing a bridge between existing youth activities in our
Metropolis and our adult choirs. We’re looking forward to Sondra’s updates on the “Youth Bridge Initiative” at future meetings.

- Continued the music program at Camp Good Shepherd - Chesapeake Bay. Fifi Nichols and Faye Hayes from Annunciation Cathedral, Baltimore, "went to camp" for four days. They rehearsed the entire liturgy Monday through Wednesday, and on Thursday morning, all campers sang the entire Divine Liturgy. One little girl said, "I can't believe we learned so much in only 3 days!"
- Continued refining and evaluating conference participation initiatives such as youth and other discounts, streamlined Council Meeting Packet production, choir director roundtable lunches, and complementary memento CDs.
- Thanks to the community of Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Richmond Virginia, Father Nick Bacalis, choir director Sondra Awad, Conference Coordinator Maria Keritsis, Conference Co-chairs Barbara Bambacus and Jane McAllister, the Conference Committee and the choir for hosting this year's annual conference. Thanks also to Fifi Nichols for conducting and Teodora Adzharova for accompanying the Roubanis Liturgy, to Nick Bambacus for his recording expertise, and to Miriam Kotsonis for editing and producing the upcoming conference CD.

2019 Annual Conference
We are looking for a host for next year’s conference. The music selected is the new Gallos II 2nd Edition, which includes the newly approved English translation, and will be premiered under the direction of Nick Kyrus. Please let us know if you have an interest in hosting.

National Forum
The annual meeting of the National Forum was held in Boston this past July in conjunction with the Archdiocesan Biennial Clergy Laity Congress, and as usual the EFGOCM had the largest group participating. Many issues were discussed, including National Forum projects, hymnology, and English translations of our hymns.

The National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians is the Archdiocesan ministry responsible for liturgical music activities and the development, support, and recognition of church musicians. Chartered in 1976 as an official auxiliary of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, the National Forum serves as the liaison among local church musicians, metropolis church music federations, and the Archdiocese. It also serves as the gathering place for church musicians to discuss issues related to liturgical music and to formulate needed responses.

The National Forum has four major areas of focus:
- Support for CHOIRS, providing resources and activities to improve the quality of choirs and the availability of choral music in the church
- Support for CHANTERS and the preservation of BYZANTINE CHANT
- Support for YOUTH CHURCH MUSIC PROGRAMS, including hymnology and junior choirs
- Support for CLERGY, including parish music ministries, and support for clergy

Georgia Tangires
On a more somber note, this summer we lost Georgia Tangires. Georgia was one of the finest church musicians of her era, her legacy recognized by the receipt of the National Forum Saint Romanos Award. One of her major accomplishments was spearheading the formation of our Federation in 1977. May her memory be eternal!
July 27, 2018

To the Tangires and Annunciation Cathedral Family,

On behalf of the Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians of the Metropolis of New Jersey and the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians, I’d like to express not only our condolence but also our deep felt gratitude for Georgia Tangires and her impressive music legacy which has had a major impact on the music of our Metropolis & Archdiocese.

She served the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation in Baltimore for over six decades as choir member, organist, and director of music.

Georgia spearheaded the formation of our Metropolis Choir Federation and conducted its first Choir Conference here at the Cathedral in 1977.

The Cathedral hosted The National Forum’s first National Choir School in August of 1985, a ten day event under the direction of Anna & Father Gallos, Georgia Tangires, and Paul Mavromihalis.

Georgia was the director of 3 Church Music Institutes for Organ held at the Cathedral in 1989, 1990, and 1991 which were co-sponsored by the Forum and the Eastern Federation.

She helped develop one of the first official position papers entitled “The Use of the Organ” adopted by the National Forum in 1985. Georgia wrote the first article for the National Forum’s MUSICA series, entitled “The Use of the Organ in the Greek Orthodox Church”. She developed the handbook entitled “Repertoire for the Greek Orthodox Church Organist” co-published with the National Forum which contains arrangements considered appropriate for use during Orthodox services and guidelines/suggestions for organists.

In 1990, Georgia was awarded the St. Romanos the Melodist Medallion for Exemplary Archdiocesan Service, the highest national honor given to a church musician by the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians.

Georgia led numerous workshops and lectures at Clergy Laity Congresses, National Forum Meetings, and Federation Conferences. She presented compositions, and served as conductor and organist at various conferences.

Georgia composed and arranged extensively for Greek Orthodox choirs and organ. She was an accomplished organist, conductor, guest clinician, composer, author, and most of all – a mentor to many.

May her memory be eternal!

Paul Mavromihalis
Paul Petro Mavromihalis,
EFGOCM President

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord,
Come into His presence with singing.”
Psalm 100 Verses 1, 2
### EFGOCM 2018 Financial Report

**9/1/2017 - 8/31/2018**

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Checking Account Balance 8/31/2018: $7,706.00  
Less Reserves: $2,500.00  
Available Funds: $5,206.00  

*EFGOCM realized a nearly $5200 surplus in 2018. This is primarily due to the 2017 Conference profits exceeding budget, careful spending, and some expenses not being submitted before the fiscal year closed.*

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**Adam Birnbaum**
### District 1 – Maryland

**Faye Hayes**

Hello from District 1. The choirs in our region are actively participating in the Divine Liturgy each Sunday and many other services.

We had our second year of successful participation at Camp Good Shepherd - Chesapeake Bay. Fifi Nichols and Faye Hayes from Annunciation Cathedral, Baltimore, taught music to the children, who then sang the tenor Divine Liturgy, with responses in both Greek and English. This year there were close to 70 children participating, representing almost 50% more than last year.

### District 2 – Virginia

**Alexa Garrison**

We are happy to share the information that several of our parishes have offered about their choir activities. Others have not responded, so if your parish is missing, please make sure to send us an update next time!

- **Newport News:**
  - Participated in the EFGOCM conference in Perth Amboy, NJ.
  - Choir sang for Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Pascha of Holy Week as well as teach Friday for the Salutations.
  - Worked once a month with the Sunday school students teaching a few church hymns. These were sung during the end of the year Sunday school program.
  - Assisted with Sunday School Christmas pageant.
  - Four members continue directing the choir as volunteers.
  - Participated in a Sacred Arts Festival at Saint Basil the Great Orthodox Church (Hampton, VA) and presented a Liturgical Sampling concert.
  - Attended the Metropolis Clergy Laity in Garfield, NJ.
  - Our organist served as the Southeastern Federation Conference organist held in Mobile, AL where they sang the new Tikey Zes Liturgy with Tikey directing.
  - Participated in Clergy Laity in Boston, MA as part of The National Forum.
  - Participated in the regional rehearsal in Richmond.

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### EFGOCM 2018-2019 Proposed Budget

9/1/2018 through 8/31/2019

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Balance Reserve Account (post-budget approval) $3,981.00

- Participated in a Sacred Arts Festival at Saint Basil the Great Orthodox Church (Hampton, VA) and presented a Liturgical Sampling concert.
- Attended the Metropolis Clergy Laity in Garfield, NJ.
- Our organist served as the Southeastern Federation Conference organist held in Mobile, AL where they sang the new Tikey Zes Liturgy with Tikey directing.
- Participated in Clergy Laity in Boston, MA as part of The National Forum.
- Participated in the regional rehearsal in Richmond.
Richmond:
• Participated in the EFGOCM conference in Perth Amboy, NJ.
• Hosted winter EFGOCM meeting March 2 – 3, 2018.
• Attended the Metropolis Clergy Laity in Garfield, NJ.
• On May 31, 2018, the choir presented a concert featuring liturgical music during our annual Greek festival.
• Participated in the National Clergy Laity in Boston, MA as part of the National Forum and served on several committees.
• Hosted a regional rehearsal in preparation for this year’s conference with Fifi Nichols directing.
• Hosted the EFGOCM conference October 11 – 14, 2018.

Norfolk:
• Participated in the EFGOCM conference in Perth Amboy, NJ.
• The choir has been learning the Roubanis Liturgy in preparation for the EFGOCM conference in Richmond.
• Participated in the regional rehearsal in Richmond on September 15. [Corrected at the Council Meeting on 10/13/18 to read: “Could not participate in the Richmond regional rehearsal due to severe weather conditions.”]

District 3 – New Jersey  Kathryn Athanasoulas
Greetings to all from District #3. We have had a busy year.

Our District choir presented a Pan-Orthodox Christmas concert together with the Spirit of Orthodoxy choir on December 8, 2017 at St. Anthony's Orthodox Church, Bergenfield NJ. The program included hymns and traditional carols from America, Western Europe, Greece, Serbia, Romania, and Russia.

The 28th annual “The Spirit of Lent” concert was hosted by St. Nicholas, Wyckoff on April 6, 2018 with Director Kathryn Athanasoulas and Organist Hope Demitry. Thanks to the fine acoustics of St. Nicholas, the recording came out especially well. Combining many hymns from this concert with outstanding recordings from past Lenten concerts, Miriam Kotsonis produced a commemorative CD.

On April 30, 2018 the NJ District held a “choir appreciation dinner” for choir members who had sung in these Lenten concerts over the years. It was an enjoyable night, during which our community of singers was able to reconnect with friends old and new. The evening included a slide show of past concerts, great food, some fun singing, and a hilarious “roast” presented by Kay Kehayas. Each member was given a copy of the commemorative recording.

Rehearsals were held for the annual Holy Cross Celebration, scheduled for September 16 in Asbury Park, with Kay Kehayas directing and Hope Demitry serving as organist. Unfortunately, Hurricane Florence disrupted these plans, and the event was cancelled. We look forward to next year!

On June 4 and 11 our district enjoyed two rehearsals for the Roubanis conference music; two additional rehearsals were held on September 17 and 24. All four were hosted by Holy Trinity, Westfield, and directed by Kathryn Athanasoulas, with Hope Demitry accompanying.
We received a response only from St. Luke, Broomall, PA. Other churches are strongly requested to share feedback in the future, so that everyone can learn about each other's choir activities.

**End of Choir Season Festivities:** Our choir finished the season with our annual gathering for some summer fun, with everyone bringing a dish, to celebrate the end of our choir year and the coming ‘R&R’ over the summer. We were again hosted by Steve and Janine Vouduris who so generously and graciously opened their home to us for some fun, friendship, and refreshments!

**Choir Director/Organist:** Our choir director, Dena Papadopoulos, has decided to leave her director position after 5 years. She has brought us her talents, time, and dedication to quality, and we are so much the better for her energetic leadership and direction. We will miss her greatly!

St. Luke is seeking a Choir Director/Organist for its 15 voice mixed Choir. This is a combined Director/Organist position and remuneration will reflect accordingly. The Choir Director/Organist accompanies rehearsals. The choir can perform with or without accompaniment at services.

Responsibilities include:
- Sunday Liturgy and weekly rehearsal from September to June
- Additional services during Lent and Holy Week
- Christmas Pageant Music (rehearsals and performance)
- Weddings (additional compensation)

Applicants should have:
- Knowledge of the Greek Orthodox Liturgy
- Experience and training in vocal music and choral conducting
- Organ/Piano keyboard skills
- Leadership and organizational skills

For more information/details regarding this opening, please contact Dena Papadopoulos at dena80papa@gmail.com.
COMMITTEE REPORTS

Scholarship

Maria Keritsis

I truly appreciate the honor of serving as Scholarship Chairman for our Federation. We have much talent in our Federation and the awarding of the scholarship is one way to acknowledge the talents of our faithful.

As of August 31, the balance in the Gallos Scholarship Account is $52,741.00, of which $2,536.10 is cash. Approximately $3,000 was donated to the Gallos Fund in 2017.

As of August 31, the balance in the Mitchum Scholarship Account is $18,558.81, of which $5,079.21 is cash.

The Scholarship Committee members are Kathryn Athanasoulas, Hope Demitry, Nick Kyrus, and Fifi Nichols. We received no new applications this year but did receive renewal applications. The awards will be announced at the conference.

Your generosity makes it possible to recognize the outstanding talents of our young people. It is our hope that they will offer their talents to a choir in the future.

Communications

Nick Kyrus

Per the Charter, this Committee is responsible for the information technology requirements of the EFGOCM, and includes the following sub-committees:

Public Relations - This sub-committee position continues to remain open. The chairman “ensures that all communications tools are used for good relations between the organization and the membership, the clergy, and all matters public including publicity and protocol.”

Member Recognition - Individual members are recognized annually for their years of service in the choir or at the psaltrion. Certificates are offered for 10 years of service, certificates and pins are offered for 25 and 50 years of service. Choir directors are also recognized for 25 years of service with the Archbishop's Years of Service Award.

There are approximately 390 active and inactive members whose years of service are documented in the database. Of these, there are 62 active individuals who have been singing for more than 50 years (7 of whom have now attained 75 years of continued service in the choir; Presvytera Anna Gallos of Annunciation Cathedral, Baltimore MD, had reached that milestone before her passing), 124 who are between 25 and 49, and 75 people between 10 and 24 years. Recognition for 75 years of service is appreciatively offered to: Irene Burton and Nick Coumanis, St. Katherine, Falls Church, VA; Helen and Peter Kehayes, St. Anna, Hunterdon County, NJ; Irene Mathas and Mary Vourlas, Annunciation, Norfolk, VA; and E. James Vardakis, Ascension, Fairview, NJ. We are delighted that Helen and Peter Kehayes are joining us at the EFGOCM Conference in Richmond.
Information Technology

Web Page - The EFGOCM web page is hosted by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and is updated several times a year. The address is http://newjersey.churchmusic.goarch.org/

Information on the web page includes general information about the Federation, news and events, resources for choir directors, and other useful links. The web page is now the primary method for sharing information with the membership and general public.

Database - The master list of member information including names, addresses, and years of service is maintained by Susan Karcanes and Nick Kyrus. Information is updated several times a year with data received from choir directors or individual members. There are approximately 1000 entries including churches, priests, chanters, choir members, and officers of other federations.

Publications - The First Mode is the newsletter of the Federation and it is published 2-3 per year. It is edited by Drucie Papafil and now distributed electronically. Choir Notes, the newsletter for the New Jersey District, has been replaced by emails sent as needed. Archived materials can be viewed online.

Listserv - This is an electronic list of email addresses and is the primary method of communication for the EFGOCM. There are 385 subscribers who receive official announcements from the EFGOCM. Membership in the Federation is not required for a subscription.

Administration

The Administration Committee is continuing to review the various documents of the Federation. Still to be completed is the updating of the Charter, which will be addressed in the coming year. Members are reminded of submission due dates, which are included in our documents and available on the EFGOCM website. Reminders for these due dates (e.g., scholarships, Athenagoras awards, music recommendations) are also sent out via ListServ.

Youth Initiatives

This past year, the main focus has been at the National level with the revision of the “Hymns of the Orthodox Church” teaching series. The main purpose is to provide religious education teachers and all other interested adults with a means for teaching the hymns of our faith. Using the newly approved English translations, youth from Saint Constantine and Helen Cathedral of Richmond, VA, recorded key liturgical hymns in Greek and English with the assistance of Lucy Pappadakes of Charlotte, NC. In addition to this new recording using youth voices, the companion booklets for the eleven hymns were also revised. The project has been completed and the Hymn Series is being distributed nationally. In order to get the word out, Sondra Awad attended the following events and provided a short presentation introducing the series: the National Forum Presidents’ Meeting in March (Richmond, VA), the Metropolis of New Jersey Clergy Laity Meeting, and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Clergy Laity Congress and National Forum Annual Meeting (Boston, Massachusetts). To build awareness of the newly revised hymnology series by our religious educators in Richmond, a complete hymn series set has been distributed to each of the grade levels (11 in total).

During the summer of 2018 at Camp Good Shepherd in NJ, campers attended services every morning and evening and actively participated in chanting and readings. They also had a music session every day where they learned hymns with one of the counselors. In addition, they had two campfires during the week during which they also sang a few hymns. As reported by District 1, Camp Good Shepherd - Chesapeake Bay, Fifi Nichols and Faye Hayes provided daily hymnology instruction and practice. This culminated in the chanting of the Divine Liturgy on the last day of camp.
Although at this time in Richmond we do not have an official youth choir, we have been encouraging young people to join the choir on Sunday mornings. We have four youth who also regularly attend Wednesday evening rehearsals. In addition to those, we have 1 postgraduate and 3 undergraduate students in the choir. Joey Chavez, a sophomore and former recipient of a Gallos Scholarship, filled in as organist for the summer.

In order to increase membership and participation with youth as well as adults, experience shows that blanket open invitations to join are not as effective as reaching out to individuals on a one-to-one basis. An extremely important thing to keep in mind is to provide a welcoming and accepting atmosphere for singers of all ages.

**Continuing Education**

The only CMI of the 2017-2018 year is the one being held at the Annual Conference. The Very Rev. Archimandrite Fr. Chrysostomos Gilbert of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Manhattan, NY, is the invited speaker, and Renee Root (now of Omaha, NE, but formerly very active in the EFGOCM) as clinician. The focus is on increasing each choir member’s effectiveness, through growth in vocal and choral “team” awareness and skill. This year, responding to your feedback in a recent survey, the format will be to present the workshop over several time segments, not as a single long unit. This will both maximize efficient time use during the Conference and to enable us to assimilate what we have learned and think of questions for the following segments.

We encourage all of you to think about CMIs for the future. It would be very desirable to have an “education champion” in each district, working with the District Supervisor and with Miriam to plan helpful sessions that would be well-attended. This coming year, Miriam and other interested volunteers will work on creating one or more short, on-line offerings that choirs and individuals will find helpful. In the meantime, the following informal videos of a very helpful short workshop focused on breathing, posture, and warm-ups, held by District 3 in NJ, may be of interest:

Part 1 (47 mins): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zslayquR520](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zslayquR520)
Part 2 (28 mins): [https://www.youtube.com/edit?o=U&video_id=ezwxsoWkO1](https://www.youtube.com/edit?o=U&video_id=ezwxsoWkO1)