Call to Order
The spring meeting of the Federation Council was called to order at 10:02 am on May 18, 2013 by Vice-President Dan Packis, in the absence of President Ted Niforos. Father John Virginis led the group in a prayer and the singing of Christ is Risen. Nine parishes were represented.

Father John also offered a Trisaghion for recently departed church musicians, including Presvytera Arite Tomarakos, Dorthie Balaskas, Mary Ameredes, Helen Arambages, Elizabeth Sarafis, and Delores Revelos.

Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the Convention Federation Council meeting had previously been distributed via email.

MOTION PASSED (Peter Vatsures/Elaine Charalambopoulos) to accept the minutes of the July 2012 Federation Council meeting as distributed.

Presidents Report
In his absence, Ted submitted a written report, which was read by Dan. Ted reported on his attendance at the National Forum’s recent meeting of the Council of Presidents in Boston, which he attended in April. He reported that the Federation will be receiving $5000 for CMI’s to be conducted this biennium (2012-14) in addition to a $500 subsidy for a new or aspiring director to attend the Forum’s National Choir Directors Academy when it occurs. Also discussed were years of service certificates, the Holy Synod’s forthcoming English translation of the Divine Liturgy, and working with the Department of Religious Education to include church hymns in the Church School curriculum.

Federation databases were also discussed. Peter Vatsures currently manages the MEGOFOX leadership database, Kathy Doulgeris maintains the database of individual choir members, and Vicki Pappas maintains a database for the MEGOFOX email distribution list. MEGOFOX has a need for a centralized database combining these, and Pam Cramer from Houston is willing to help us develop our systems.

MOTION PASSED (Manny Creekus/Richard Barrett) to accept Ted’s President’ Report.

Ted also reported that he also has been keeping in touch with officers and State Representatives and has been working with Janice to assist the Convention Committee whenever needed.

Metropolis Liaisons
1. Pittsburgh: Peter Vatsures reported that Metropolitan Savas has finished his term on the Patriarchal Synod, and is more accessible now. The Greater Pittsburgh choirs under Mike Orfanopoulos met with Metropolitan Savas twice to rejuvenate the Christmas concert; Representation, however, is small. The Metropolitan will not be able to be at the Cincinnati Convention; he’s been asked to speak at DoxaCon, a Scy-Fi and Faith Convention, the same weekend. Metropolitan Maximos is in a comfortable home and is well-treated there; certain priests visit and spend time with him.

2. Detroit: Barbara Minton reported that everything is going well with Metropolitan Nicholas. He knows about our Convention and hopefully will be in attendance. Barbara has kept him informed of our activities. Ted submits bi-monthly articles to the Shepherd’s Staff, the Metropolis Newsletter.

Memorial Scholarship Program
Trustee Dan Packis reported that the beginning balance of the Scholarship Fund was $82,486.86 as of 7/31/12. Since this Convention, there has been $2,989 in donations +$16.41 interest. The current base is $85,492.27. Interest is about .5% on CD.

A proposed amendment to the Scholarship Program funds had been duly distributed in preparation for a vote at this meeting. After discussion and clarifying words/editorial changes, the vote was taken.
MOTION PASSED (Peter Vatsures/Barbara Minton) to accept corrected amendment to Section 15.1.6 of the Operational Procedures: “However, if the investment yield to the base of the Memorial Scholarship Program is less than 5% per annum, the Trustees would be allowed to withdraw up to $3,000.00 from the corpus of the Fund for scholarships to supplement available funds.”

Dan also reported that this year marks the 25th anniversary since Charles Michaels established the Memorial Scholarship Endowment. The goal is to get the Fund to a base of $100,000.

ACTION: At this year’s Convention, we will try a new way of accepting contributions at the Banquet. Vicki and Barbara will announce this in the next issue of the Echo.

Financial Reports
1. Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Peter Vatsures reported a beginning balance of $13,196.53. Income was $13,259.02; expenses were $3,987.72; and the current ending balance is $9,278.72.

MOTION PASSED (Vicki Pappas/Richard Barrett) that given our excellent income situation this year, we amend the budget to add $750 for the National Forum Delegation so that the line totals $2000. This leaves the budget with a deficit of $1,199.53.

2. Patrons Campaign: Peter also reported for Anna Niforos, Chair of the Patrons Campaign. Distributed was a list of individual donors plus Philoptochos donations, totaling $1737.00. It was noted that 11 Philoptochos chapters donated $900.00. Anna continues to receive and record donations.

3. Stewardship: Peter reported for Tony Thrubis. There are 44 parishes who are stewards as of March 16th, 22 from each Metropolis. Stewardship contributions for an additional three parishes were received at this meeting: St. Paul, North Royalton; St. George/Massillon, Rocky River/St. Demetrios.

ACTION: Peter will send reminders to parishes that haven’t fulfilled stewardship for this year.

Selection of Convention Music
Proper notice was given to the parishes regarding procedures for nominating Convention music. There were two proposals.

Stan Takis was unable to attend the meeting, but sent a proposal suggesting we consider a new format at our Conventions: to have a Youth Choir sing for the entire Divine Liturgy and that instead of singing on Sunday, the adults would prepare music for a concert on the weekend of the Convention. Stan would be willing to travel to different areas to teach the young people the music.

Discussion of this concept ensured and it was considered an intriguing idea for the Federation to try at some point. It was thought not to be fair to Columbus in 2014, however, as they may have already been planning their Convention. It would be better for host cities to know whether this was going to happen before they bid on the Convention. A better venue might be the 2017/70th Anniversary Convention which may be at Oglebay Park. The group felt that more time is needed to put more structure on the idea and do more planning.

MOTION PASSED (Barbara Minton/Elaine Charalambopoulos) that the Executive Board consider Stan’s proposal as a starting point, develop the concept further, and explore the possibilities for future implementation.

Vicki Pappas nominated the Anna Gallos II liturgical setting. The proposal met all the criteria for selection, and the members sang through the designated hymns. Discussion followed.

MOTION PASSED (Peter Vatsures/Elaine Charalambopoulos) to accept the nomination of Gallos II as presented (bilingual) for the next two years. Which hymns to do in English or Greek would be negotiated between the Federation President, the Guest Director, and the Convention hosts.

State Representatives Reports
1. Metro Detroit: Elaine Charalambopoulos presented her report which included an update on choirs and priests: Area rehearsals for the Zervos II Convention music are being planned for three week nights in June.
2. **NE Ohio**: Mary Matzorkis presented a written report submitted by Mary Matzorkis. She has made contacts with various parishes in her area and identified changes for our databases.

   **ACTION:** Mary should submit her changes to Peter and Kathy Doulgeris for their databases.

3. **Indiana/KY**: Vicki Pappas reported on the status of her parishes. Four of the five parishes are current in their stewardship, but need roster updates. She welcomed Richard Barrett as the first-time representative from Holy Apostles, a mission parish in Indianapolis. The parish has asked her to assist them with development of a choir. She also described the “One Voice” concert series presented annually by Holy Trinity in Carmel, IN. She will encourage Indiana and Kentucky parishes to attend the Convention.

4. **Tennessee/Arkansas**: Vicki is serving as Interim Date Rep for this area, and is still looking for someone to take on this responsibility. Only Chattanooga and Little Rock are current in their stewardship, and she continues to seek rosters.

5. **Outstate Michigan**: Ruthie Munk did not submit a report.

6. **SW Ohio**: Valerie Baker did not submit a report.

7. **New York**: Co-Representatives Zoi Varahidis and Tom Getska did not submit a report.

8. **Eastern Pennsylvania**: Kathy Doulgeris did not present a report.

9. **Western Pennsylvania**: There is no representative for this area as yet.

10. **West Virginia**: There is no representative for this area as yet.

   **ACTION:** State Reps were urged to keep in contact with their parishes as they are the Federation’s most important link to the parishes. They should remind them of their stewardship and its benefits, especially Scholarship applications; voting on selection of music and guest directors; making Athenagoras nominations; holding office; and receiving Federation assistance. Also, State Representatives were reminded about submitting timely reports in the future.

**Youth Liaisons**

There were no reports from Evey Simon (Detroit Metropolis) or Diane Matzorkis (Pittsburgh Metropolis).

   **ACTION:** The liaisons were encouraged to assist with development of youth music programs in their Metropolises and encourage young people to attend the Convention. Also, written reports were requested when they could not attend meetings.

**2013 Convention Update**

Convention Chairman Janice Kellaris sent in a written report as she was not able to attend this meeting. She reported that plans are well underway and everything is going well. Registration packets will be sent out soon to all 1400 in our Membership Database; they will also send information to Vicki to send out electronically and to Webmaster Nicholas Bodle. The Ad Book mailing has been sent, and the suggestions made by the Executive Board have been made to the logo and the texts.

   **ACTION:** Janice will contact Evey regarding plans for the Youth Track.

   **ACTION:** Change the terminology “Choir Ad” to “Church Musicians Ad” as we serve not just the choir of a parish but all other church musicians as well. Ads should reflect this concept.

The Banquet will be held at the hotel; they will solicit challenge donations to help cover the cost. Other events include a Thursday Welcome Night featuring Cincinnati foods and Greek dancing; a Friday Karaoke Night and Greek dancing; the Grand Banquet on Saturday; and a Farewell Luncheon on Sunday.

**Administrative Updates:**

1. **Church Music Education Committee**

Co-Chairs Vicki Pappas and Barbara Minton shared some of their ideas for the Church Music Institute that will occur during the Cincinnati Convention. They hope to invite a priest from the Metropolis of Atlanta with Metropolitan Nicholas’s blessing, plus instructors for chant and vocal workshops.
A discussion was held regarding hosting more church music workshops during the year as was done several year’s ago. Additionally, Vicki suggested the need to re-format the Spring Federation Council meeting to be more in line with our hopes when the Federation’s governance model was changed:

√ To host a workshop at the Spring Federation Council meeting so that more people would want to attend and in the course of the day, hold an abbreviated Federation Council meeting.

√ To host more regional events should be organized by respective State Representatives with the assistance of the Committee being available.

2. **Byzantine Echo**

Co-Editors Vicki and Barbara reported that electronic distribution of the Echo has been going very well: the issues are easy to prepare, there have been more issues, and the cost has been next to zero. The Co-Chairs gathered ideas for future issues from the members present; suggestions were to continue to include examples of parish information; consider a Question Box (e.g., why we shouldn’t do non-Orthodox hymns at the end of the service). Barbara and Vicki reported that the idea of including articles from our Metropolitans is still on the agenda, pending the time schedules of our Metropolitans.

3. **Governance Committee**

Trustee Dan Packis reminded the Committee that a Federation Dissolution amendment is needed so he can complete our application for a 501(c)3 designation. Discussion ensued that we should link the dissolution amendment for the Federation to the dissolution statement about the Scholarship Endowment. Suggested wording would be that the Federation’s operating funds would be transferred into the Memorial Scholarship Fund, and that the combined funds would then be distributed according to the By-Laws of Scholarship Fund.

**ACTION:** The Governance Committee will prepare the Dissolution amendment and conduct an e-mail vote, aiming for an announcement at the Convention.

**MOTION PASSED** (Richard Barrett/Elaine Charalambopoulos) to use the budgeted line for the Governance Committee Chairs to get together to complete the revisions, and the use President’s discretionary funds if needed.

4. **Website/Facebook**

Webmaster Nicholas Bodle presented a report. He has been keeping the Athenagoras Award page and forms up to date. It was suggested he make all the forms generic so that the dates don’t have to be revised each year. Nicholas suggested we obtain a Twitter account and name. He can set it up so that whatever he updates on Facebook will automatically go to Twitter.

**ACTION:** Nicholas will add the Memorial Page to the website.

**Adjournment**

Upon a motion by Barbara Minton and a second by Richard Barrett, the Spring Federation Council meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**Vicki Pappas**

Vicki Pappas, Secretary

**ATTENDANCE**

May 18, 2013 - Members in Good Standing

| Arkansas: None represented                | **Ohio, cont**: Columbus/Annunciation Cathedral |
| Indiana: Carmel/Holy Trinity              | Massillon/St. George                           |
| Indianapolis/Holy Apostles                | North Royalton/St. Paul                       |
| Kentucky: None represented                | Rocky River/St. Demetrios                     |
| Michigan: Southgate/St. George            | Pennsylvania: None represented                |
| Westland/Sts. Constantine & Helen        | Tennessee: None represented                   |
| New York: None represented                | West Virginia: None represented               |
| Ohio: Akron/Annunciation                  |                                               |