

**Diocese of Pittsburgh & Western Pennsylvania**  
**Archdiocesan Council Meeting**  
**August 19, 2013**

A meeting of the Archdiocesan Council took place at the Archdiocesan Center (Cranberry Twp., PA) on August 19, 2013. Bishop Melchisedek called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM, with the singing of "O Heavenly King".

The following were present: Bishop Melchisedek, Chancellor Archpriest William Evansky; Archpriests: Michael Senyo, Secretary; Mark Meholick, Igumen David (Lewis), Igumen Patrick (Carpenter), Priest John Kopcha, Gregory Thompson, Nikolai Breckenridge, Deacon Seraphim Truckley. From the laity: Gregory Nescott, Justin Nescott, Gregory Avdakov, Gregory Sidorick, Nicholas Sidorick, and Serge Daniels. Also present: Treasurer, Helen Billak; and Administrative Assistant, Reader Barry Migyanko.

**Secretarial Report:**

The minutes of the June 3, 2013, meeting, which had been distributed to members electronically, were accepted with no corrections or additions. Copy attached.

**Financial Report:**

Financial reports for June, July and August were electronically distributed prior to the meeting. (Copies attached.)

--Igumen Patrick voiced his concern regarding several items exceeding budgeted targets. Treasurer Helen Billak addressed these concerns, together with comments from His Grace and Father Chancellor.

--The proposed 2013-2014 Budget was reviewed. (Copies attached.) The proposed budget anticipates an income of \$468,823 with anticipated expenditures of \$468,822.57. Deficits were forecasted, especially in light of costs of property maintenance and the continued funding of the parish development program. A two dollar increase in the annual assessment is proposed by the Treasurer, in lieu of extracting funds from investment income. Discussion of this increase was largely negative. Following a line by line review, Igumen Patrick moved to recommend the passage of this budget to the Archdiocesan Assembly. Seconded by Priest Nikolai Breckenridge. Motion passed.

**Correspondence:**

None presented.

**Report of the Ruling Bishop:**

- There were three clergy retirements: Archpriests Hendershot, Shomsky, and Archimandrite Pitirim.
- Vacancies in Crossingville, Weirton and Black Lick are being addressed. Crossingville and Weirton are being served by Diocesan clergy until new rectors are assigned. Black Lick is being served by Deacon Edward Blachko, who is currently studying at St. Tikhon's Seminary.
- David Smith was ordained to the Diaconate and is serving the mission in Snyder County.
- Reported on the Quarterly Dean's meetings.
- Reported on the upcoming second phase of the parish development program.
- Reviewed travels and functions attended.
- Reviewed calendar for upcoming months.

**Chancellor's Report:**

Father Chancellor reviewed his duties and responsibilities and urged members to encourage submissions of parish news for the Diocesan publications. (Copy attached.)

**Metropolitan Council:**

The Metropolitan Council will meet in New York in September.

**Building and Grounds:**

Deacon Seraphim Truckley reported that leaks in the pavilion were repaired and a sink had to be replaced there as well. The Episcopal residence is in need of a new roof and windows are in need of painting and repair. Drainage issues near the residence must also be addressed.

**Youth Committee:**

Priest Nikolai Breckenridge reported a meeting was held on July 24. He reviewed last year's events and the events planned for the coming year. Scheduled events are:

- Bonfire: 10/19/13
- Altar Servers Retreat: TBA
- Ice Skating: 1/26/14
- Bowling: 2/16/14
- Youth Decorating the Episcopal residence: December 2013
- Youth Retreat for Summer: 2014

**Pittsburgh FOCA:**

Serge Daniels reported that the District Convention will be held at the Cathedral in October. Serge also emphasized that FOCA's main function is to support the Diocesan Youth activities.

**Parish Development:**

Joseph Kormos' report was distributed electronically, prior to the meeting. (Copy attached.)

- There was discussion by the Council members regarding the cost effectiveness of this program.
- Concerns were expressed regarding methods of determining successes or failures regarding this program.
- Council members requested Mr. Kormos to schedule more frequent visits to the Diocese, as there is a sense of desiring the coordinator to be less absent, in light of his compensation.
- The program is to be continued for another year, at which time its value will be reviewed.

**Food Pantry:**

Igumen Patrick reported that the pantry serves an average of 96 individuals each week.

**Old/Unfinished Business:**

- **Reed Street (former Saint Michael Cathedral) Property:** Helen Billak is searching for a real estate firm which would list the property for sale.
- **Diocesan By-Laws:** Gregory Nescott distributed a draft of proposed bylaws for the Diocese, explaining that the proposed bylaws were based upon the Bylaws of the Diocese of the South.
  - Mr. Nescott researched the bylaws of other dioceses and jurisdictions in compiling his proposed bylaws.
  - Several points were reviewed, and Mr. Nescott called the members to study the document and submit to him questions or concerns.
  - It was noted that the proposed bylaws must be publicized for 30 days prior to the Diocesan Assembly for potential approval.
  - It was decided that the Council will meet on September 9 to review a final draft for recommendation to the Diocesan Assembly.
  - Igumen Patrick moved that this meeting be conducted via conference call for those unable to be present. Seconded by Serge Daniels. Motion passed.
- **Archbishop Benjamin Scholarship Fund:**  
Serge Daniels reported that the signatories for the Fund were in the process of being changed to the Diocesan officers. The current balance is \$92,167.00. (Copy attached.)
- **Family Day:** Greg Nescott reported income (as of August 19) of \$4,024.00. Attendance was approximately 165.

**New Business:**

- **Diocesan Webmaster:** Father Chancellor spoke concerning the search for a qualified volunteer to serve as Webmaster. Priest Gregory Thompson reported he knows of an interested person and would speak to him regarding the position.
- **Auditors:** As Sophia Radinsky is now employed by the Diocese and Justin Nescott is a member of the Council, two auditors must be appointed. Volunteers will be sought.
- **Resolution:** A resolution was provided by the Council to authorize any and all needed signature transfers pertaining to banking issues.

**Next Meeting:**

- A special meeting to review the proposed bylaws will be held on September 9 at 6:30 PM, with a conference call connection for those unable to be physically present.
- The next regular meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 21.

There being no further business before the Council, Fr. Nikolai Breckenridge moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Serge Daniels. Meeting adjourned with the singing of "It is truly meet" at 9:30 PM.

Archpriest Michael Senyo  
Secretary

Approved for distribution:

// signed //  
Bishop Melchisedek

// signed //  
Archpriest William Evansky