

ARCHDIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH AND WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Orthodox Church in America

Minutes ~ Archdiocesan Assembly 2018

Saturday, November 3, 2018 ~ Holy Resurrection Church ~ Belle Vernon, PA

The Diocesan Assembly of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western PA was held at Holy Resurrection Church, Belle Vernon, PA, on November 3, 2018.

His Eminence, The Most Reverend MELCHISEDEK, Archbishop of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania, presided at the Assembly.

The Assembly began with a Divine Liturgy celebrated by His Eminence, Archbishop MELCHISEDEK.

The first Plenary Session began with the singing of "O Heavenly King" at 11:30 am.

Archpriest William Evansky, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western PA, called the Assembly to order.

1. CREDENTIALS REPORT

A. Treasurer Alexis Parshook presented the credentials report as follows:

Hierarchy:	1
Clergy	22
Deacons	7
Laity Delegates:	26
Archdiocesan Council Members	6
Retired Priest	2
Alternates	2
Observers:	2
Attached Clergy	1
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 69	TOTAL VOTES: 61

B. (At the request of the Assembly body, and with the blessing of the hierarchy, a list of parishes with no clergy or laity representation at the Assembly, as well as a listing of Archdiocesan parish priests not in attendance, is included here in the Assembly meeting minutes.) **Fourteen parishes are not represented by a Clergy or Laity Delegate as follows:** Nativity of the Virgin Mary, Masontown PA; SS Peter & Paul, Moundsville WV; Holy Trinity, New Salem PA; Holy Transfiguration, Steubenville OH; Holy Resurrection, West Brownsville PA; All Saints, Wolf Run OH; St. Michael, Curtisville PA; St. Nicholas, Duquesne PA; SS Peter & Paul, Altoona PA; St. John the Baptist, Black Lick PA; Holy Ascension, Colver PA; Nativity of the Virgin Mary, Osceola Mills PA; SS Peter & Paul, Vintondale, PA.

C. **Seven Archdiocesan Priests were not present:** V. Rev. George Yatsko, Monongahela; V. Rev. Vitaly Dudkin, New Salem; V. Rev. Alexander Poshyvajlo, Curtisville PA; V. Rev. David Lesko, Duquesne PA; V. Rev. Andrew Matychak, Altoona PA; Archimandrite John-Jacob (Piruta), Osceola Mills PA; the V. Rev. Michael Senyo, Allison Park (excused for extenuating personal reasons)

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRS AND SECRETARIAT

A. Clergy Vice Chair

Chancellor Evansky placed the name of Archpriest John Reeves as Clergy Vice-chair.

MOTION: "To close nominations for Clergy Vice-Chair and cast a unanimous ballot for Archpriest John Reeves." Made by Archpriest George Johnson; seconded by Ms. Chrisia Johnston.

MOTION CARRIED

B. Laity Vice-Chair

Igumen Patrick (Carpenter) placed the name of Mr. Gregg Nescott into Nomination for Laity Vice-Chair. Mr. Nescott declined the nomination.

Chancellor Evansky placed the name of Mr. Serge Daniels as Laity Vice-Chair.

**MOTION: “To close nominations for Laity Vice-Chair and cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. Serge Daniels.” Made by Archpriest George Johnson; seconded by Mr. Greg Ohler.
MOTION CARRIED**

C. Clergy Recording Secretary

Chancellor Evansky placed the name of Priest Andrew P. Nelko as Clergy Recording Secretary.

MOTION: “To close nominations for Clergy Recording Secretary and cast a unanimous ballot for Priest Andrew P. Nelko.” Made by Archpriest John Kopcha; seconded by Priest Elijah Bremer.

MOTION CARRIED

D. Laity Secretary

Chancellor Evansky placed the name of Dr. John Schultz as Laity Recording Secretary.

MOTION: “To close nominations for Laity Recording Secretary and cast a unanimous ballot for Dr. John Schultz.” Made by Igumen Patrick (Carpenter); seconded by Priest Elijah Bremer.

MOTION CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chancellor Evansky reported that the Minutes from the 2017 Assembly were previously distributed to the parishes and additional copies were passed out to those in attendance at this Assembly. There were no additions or corrections.

**MOTION: “To approve the 2017 Archdiocesan Assembly minutes as presented.”
Made by Sbdn. Nicholas York, seconded by Deacon David Rostcheck.
MOTION CARRIED**

4. ARCHBISHOP’S REPORT

His Eminence, Archbishop MELCHISEDEK then read his report on the State of the Archdiocese. highlights. His report included:

- Activities of the Holy Synod.
- Activities of the Archdiocesan Administration.
- Review of Archdiocesan Parishes.
- Review of the Annual Small Parish Conference held in Toledo.
- Activities of the Assembly of Bishops.
- Review of the updates of the Archdiocesan Website.
- Review of the active O.C.F. groups in the Archdiocese. They include Penn State University (State College); Edinboro/Clarion University; Slippery Rock University.
- Reviewed the Catechetical Program now Chaired by Archpriest David Vernak.

5. CHANCELLORS REPORT

Chancellor Evansky’s report is in the Report Packet; he had no additions or corrections. He called attention to the following:

- The new Social Media Guidelines of the Orthodox Church in America.
- Request for Lay Contacts for Parishes with no current Rector.

6. TREASURER’S REPORT

Archdiocesan Treasurer Alexis Parshook presented the written Treasurer’s Report.

A general discussion ensued with all questions asked and answered in depth.

MOTION: “To accept the Treasurer’s report as presented.” Made by Sbdn. Nicholas York; seconded by Mr. Greg Sidorick.

MOTION CARRIED

7. AUDITING REPORT

Chancellor Evansky and Treasurer Parshook presented the External Auditor’s Report. The Chancellor noted that the Internal Auditing Committee has endorsed the External Auditor’s Report with no exceptions noted.

MOTION: “To accept the Auditing Report.” Made by Deacon David Rostcheck; Seconded by Ms. Rebecca Danchenko.

MOTION CARRIED

8. DEANS’/COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

The Deans’ Reports for each Deanery and the Reports from the Chairs of the various Committees and Departments are included in the Report Packet.

Additions are as follows:

A. Report of the Dean of the Eastern Deanery should be corrected to include the following:

- Add to Parish List #16: Ss. Peter & Paul, Urey, PA.
- Add Deanery Event: 110th Anniversary of St. John the Baptist Church, Johnstown (Conemaugh), PA. Archbishop MELCHISEDEK was present for this celebration.

B. Archbishop Benjamin Scholarship Fund Report

- Funds from the Archbishop Benjamin Fund have been transferred to the investment accounts (BPU and PNC) of the Archdiocese from the now-closed bank CD’s to enhance fund growth. The total transferred was \$91,626.00. These funds will be split between the two investment funds consistent with the investment plan of the Archdiocese. It was noted by the Treasurer that the Archbishop Benjamin Fund financial status will consistently receive a line-item note on the future financial reports to maintain the fund account balance integrity.

C. It was announced that various liturgical articles from the recently closed Archdiocesan parishes are being stored in the garage at the Chancery in Cranberry Twp. and can be obtained by other parishes for usage. Otherwise, they will be made available to be used externally beyond the diocesan boundary.

(The Assembly then recessed for Lunch at 12:40 pm and reconvened after lunch at 2:34 pm.)

9. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented

10. 2018 PROPOSED BUDGET

Treasurer Parshook presented the 2018 proposed budget.

There was a general discussion on the proposed budget.

MOTION: “To amend the 2018 Proposed Budget Expense Sub-section ‘Other Administrative Expenses,’ Line Item ‘Deans’ to \$4,500 (\$1,500 stipend per Dean from \$1,000.00 per Dean).”

Made by Archpriest Michael Simerick; Seconded by Mr. Gregg Nescott

MOTION CARRIED

This amendment changes the Expenses Sub-section "Other Administrative Expenses" total to \$5,797.00, the Total Administration Expenses changes to \$7,765.00, Total Expenses changes to \$372,004.00, and Net Income/(Loss) changes to (\$47,600.00).

MOTION: "To accept the 2018 Archdiocesan Budget as amended." Made by Mr. Carl Huss; seconded by Mr. John Bonifalli
MOTION CARRIED

11. ELECTIONS

A. Election of Internal Auditors

The internal Auditing Committee has one Clergy opening and two Laity openings. Treasurer Parshook placed the name of Priest Daniel Mathewson into nomination as a Clergy Member of the Internal Auditing Committee.

MOTION: "To close nominations for Clergy Member of Internal Auditing Committee and elect Priest Daniel Mathewson." Made by Mr. Greg Sidorick; Seconded by Sbdn. Nicholas York.

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Gregg Nescott placed the name of Ms. Helen Billak into nomination as a Laity Member of the Internal Auditing Committee. (Please note Ms. Billak was not able to attend the Assembly; however, this nomination was made with the blessing of the hierarch as per Statute.)

MOTION: "To close nominations for Laity Members of Internal Auditing Committee and elect Ms. Helen Billak." Made by Sbdn. Nicholas York; Seconded by Mr. Greg Sidorick.

MOTION CARRIED

B. Metropolitan Council

The positions of Clergy Delegate (currently Priest Nikolai Breckenridge) and Laity Delegate (currently Dr. John Schulz) to the Metropolitan Council are open for election. (Priest Nikolai Breckenridge is eligible for re-election. Dr. John Schultz is NOT eligible for re-election.)

Archpriest Michael Simerick placed the name of Priest Nikolai Breckenridge into Nomination for Clergy Delegate to the Metropolitan Council.

MOTION: "To close nominations for Clergy Delegate to the Metropolitan Council and elect Priest Nikolai Breckenridge." Made by Priest Stephan Gresh; Seconded by Ms. Rebecca Danchenko.

MOTION CARRIED

There were no nominations from the floor for Laity Delegate to the Metropolitan Council. His Eminence will appoint a person for concurrence by the Archdiocesan Council at the next Council meeting in 2019.

C. Deanery Elections

Deanery Caucuses elected the following:

- Southwest Deanery Laity Delegate to Archdiocesan Council ~ Mr. Greg Ohler.
- Northwest Deanery Laity Delegate to Archdiocesan Council ~ Sbdn. Nicholas York.

12. RESOLUTION

The Assembly unanimously thanked the deacons of the Archdiocese for their extraordinary efforts in serving the vacant parishes of the Archdiocese.

13. The Chancellor noted that the 2019 Archdiocesan Assembly will be held on November 2, 2019, at a parish to be determined.

14. MOTION TO ADJOURN

MOTION: “To adjourn the 2018 Archdiocesan Assembly”

Made by Deacon Alexander Cadman; seconded by Archpriest Gregory Peterson.

MOTION CARRIED

15. INSTALLATION OF ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL

Following the adjournment, His Eminence, Archbishop MELCHISEDEK administered the Oath of Office to the Archdiocesan Council.

Having no further business to consider, the 2018 Archdiocesan Assembly was concluded at 4:05 pm with the singing of “It is truly Meet.”

Respectfully submitted by:

Priest Andrew P. Nelko
Clergy Recording Secretary

John P. Schultz, M.D.
Lay Recording Secretary

Approved:

The Most Rev. MELCHISEDEK
Archbishop of Pittsburgh &
Western Pennsylvania (OCA)

Archpriest William J. Evansky
Chancellor - Archdiocese of
Pittsburgh & Western Pennsylvania (OCA)